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**WWF Mediterranean
Programme Office**

Via Po, 25C
00198 – Rome, Italy

**Dinaric Arc Ecoregion-2012
Protected Areas
Programme**

Kestercanekova 1,
10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385 1 2361 653
Fax: +385 1 2361 620

ssatalic@wwfmedpo.org
www.panda.org

Protected Areas for a Living Planet

DINARIC ARC ECOREGION PROJECT

(Project Concept Note)

IMPLEMENTING CBD PROGRAM OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS (PoWPA)

The project is based on the outcomes of the workshop “Implementation of the CBD Programme of Works on Protected Areas in the Dinaric Arc countries” held in Belgrade on 6-7 March 2006, with the objective of drawing a picture of the “state of the game” concerning status and progress towards the completion of the targets of the CBD PoWPA and identifying actions and needs, constraints and opportunities towards the full implementation of the PoWPA in the region as a basis for the development of the present project proposal. It also builds on the substantial track record of work of WWF Mediterranean Programme Office (MedPO) in the Ecoregion. The PoWPA is a unique opportunity for the countries of the Dinaric Arc, which are facing the challenge of full European integration and economic development. The next decade will be crucial for the preservation of the outstanding natural heritage of the Dinaric Arc. The positive response given by all the main stakeholders during the project’s preparatory workshop demonstrate that the CBD / PoWPA is seen as a key vehicle to boost biodiversity conservation, mainstream environmental policies into the countries’ new development and land-use plans, and encourage new forms of transboundary cooperation.

The project will aim to create the enabling conditions for the successful implementation of the CBD PoWPA in the five countries of the Dinaric Arc Ecoregion (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Albania) through three pillars of work and the establishment of partnerships with key stakeholders.

1. **Information.** The project will gather, elaborate, produce and make available the basic information that is needed by decision-makers and other stakeholders, and that provides the basis for the implementation of the PoWPA. A Protected Area Gap Analysis for the ecoregion based on the best available information will be produced, as
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well as a set of biodiversity indicators, a red data list, a set of maps of existing and planned infrastructure and land use, and a website.

2. **Capacity.** The project will build the capacity and increase of the skills of those stakeholders (mainly national and local authorities) who have the ultimate power to translate the PoWPA into concrete conservation results. A capacity building plan linked to the implementation of the PoWPA will be developed, and at least 75% of it will be enacted by the end of the project. The plan will encourage the establishment of trans-national links between nature conservation institutions in the ecoregion.
3. **Political will and buy-in of relevant decision makers and stakeholders.** Information and capacity are not enough without the genuine will and buy-in of decision-makers. The project will work to make sure that the PoWPA receives greater attention in the political agenda of all five countries. Business plans will be developed for the main PAs of the ecoregion and related projects will be discussed with potential donors.

PROJECT GOAL

Enabling conditions are created for the successful implementation of the PoWPA of the CBD in the five countries of the Dinaric Arc Ecoregion.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: A Protected Area gap analysis for the ecoregion based on the best available information is produced and made available to all key actors involved in the implementation of the PoWPA by mid-2008.

Objective 2: A capacity building plan linked to the implementation of the PoWPA is developed, and at least 75% of it is enacted by the end of the project.

Objective 3: The PoWPA gains higher attention in the political agenda of all five countries of the ecoregion, by institutionalizing the political will expressed in the Big Win Joint Statement (Bonn, May 2008), and delivering on the national-level priorities included therein.



Outputs

Objective	Outputs
<p>OB1: A Protected Area gap analysis for the ecoregion based on the best available information is produced and made available to all key actors involved in the implementation of the PoWPA by mid-2008.</p>	<p>OT 1.1 A network of institutions (universities, institutes for nature conservation etc.) endorsed by the respective governments and committed to provide the information needed for the gap analysis and to collaborate in its elaboration is created in the framework of DAI, six months after the project is started.</p> <p>OT 1.2 A set of biodiversity conservation targets including species, habitats and ecological processes (report and maps) is produced by early-2009.</p> <p>OT 1.3 A Red Data List for the Ecoregion is created by mid 2010.</p> <p>OT 1.4 A set of maps of existing and planned infrastructure and land use is compiled by mid 2008.</p> <p>OT 1.5 A gap analysis of existing protected areas and a map of areas that need protection (including narrative report and maps) is produced by mid 2009.</p> <p>OT 1.6 A website which gathers all the above pieces of work and functions as an information clearinghouse that supports PoWPA implementation in the ecoregion is ready and available on line by late 2007.</p>
<p>OB2: A capacity building plan linked to the implementation of the PoWPA is developed, and at least 75% of it is enacted by the end of the project.</p>	<p>OT 2.1 A map of responsibilities for PoWPA implementation at the governmental level in all the five countries is compiled by the end of 2008.</p> <p>OT 2.2 A full assessment of the capacity building needs and gaps for the above institutions is produced by early 2009.</p> <p>OT 2.3 A capacity-building plan including list of concrete actions and tools, time-frame, estimated cost and possible funding opportunities, and partnerships for implementation is produced by early 2009.</p> <p>OT 2.4 At least 75% of the plan is implemented by the end of the project.</p>
<p>OB3: The PoWPA gains higher attention in the political agenda of all five countries of the ecoregion, by institutionalizing the political will expressed in the Big Win Joint Statement (Bonn, May 2008), and delivering on the national-level priorities included therein.</p>	<p>OT 3.1. Regional coordination structures / processes are put in place by end 2008 to support implementation of the Big Win national-level priorities in each of the five countries.</p> <p>OT.3.2 Plans for implementation of the Big Win national-level priorities in each of the five countries are developed by NPCs by end 2008, and begin implementation in 2009.</p> <p>OT 3.3 A donor conference is called in each country to secure financial support for implementation of the Big Win national-level priorities.</p> <p>OT 3.4 A two-level training module on the economics of PAs is developed by MedPO, and agreed with national ministries. The first level is agreed with each of the ministries by end of 2008, and the second level is agreed with the ministries by early 2009</p> <p>OT 3.5 A business plan for at least one PA per country is developed by early 2011, and financial support for each of those PAs is sought by end 2011.</p>