



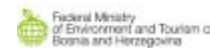
# ENVIRONMENT FOR PEOPLE in the Dinaric Arc

A Western Balkans  
Environment & Development  
Cooperation Programme

## International Conference

Transboundary  
Cooperation  
in the Dinaric Arc

29 June - 1 July, 2010 Capljina, BiH



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND



# Environment for People in the Dinaric Arc

## objectives and outcomes

Boris Erg, IUCN SEE



## Basic facts

**Title:** Sustaining Rural Communities and Their Traditional Landscapes Through Strengthened Environmental Governance in Transboundary Protected Areas of the Dinaric Arc

**Duration:** 2009-2012

**Funded by:** The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland through the Western Balkans Environment & Development Cooperation Programme

**Partnership:** IUCN, WWF MedPO and SNV





## Objective

The overall programme objective is to promote sustainable development in the Dinaric Arc region through increased ***transboundary cooperation*** in the management and ***conservation of biodiversity and cultural landscapes***.





## Activities

- Assessing the **potential for establishing transboundary protected areas**;
- **Aligning priorities** to undertake joint action across borders;
- Establishing **bottom up local partnerships** to conserve natural heritage and use;
- **Increasing capacities** to recognize and value local biodiversity and cultural values;
- **Identifying actions** in the fields of tourism, forestry, agriculture, and protection of valuable areas;
- Integrating activities into broader **European frameworks** for nature conservation.





## Pilot sites

- Prokletije NP / Bjeshkët e Namuna (MNE/AL) – model area for LAGs
- Durmitor NP / Sutjeska NP (MNE/BiH)
- Tara NP / Drina (SRB/BiH)
- Neretva Delta (BiH/HR)
- Mt. Dinara (BiH/HR)
- Una NP / Plitvice NP (BiH/HR)





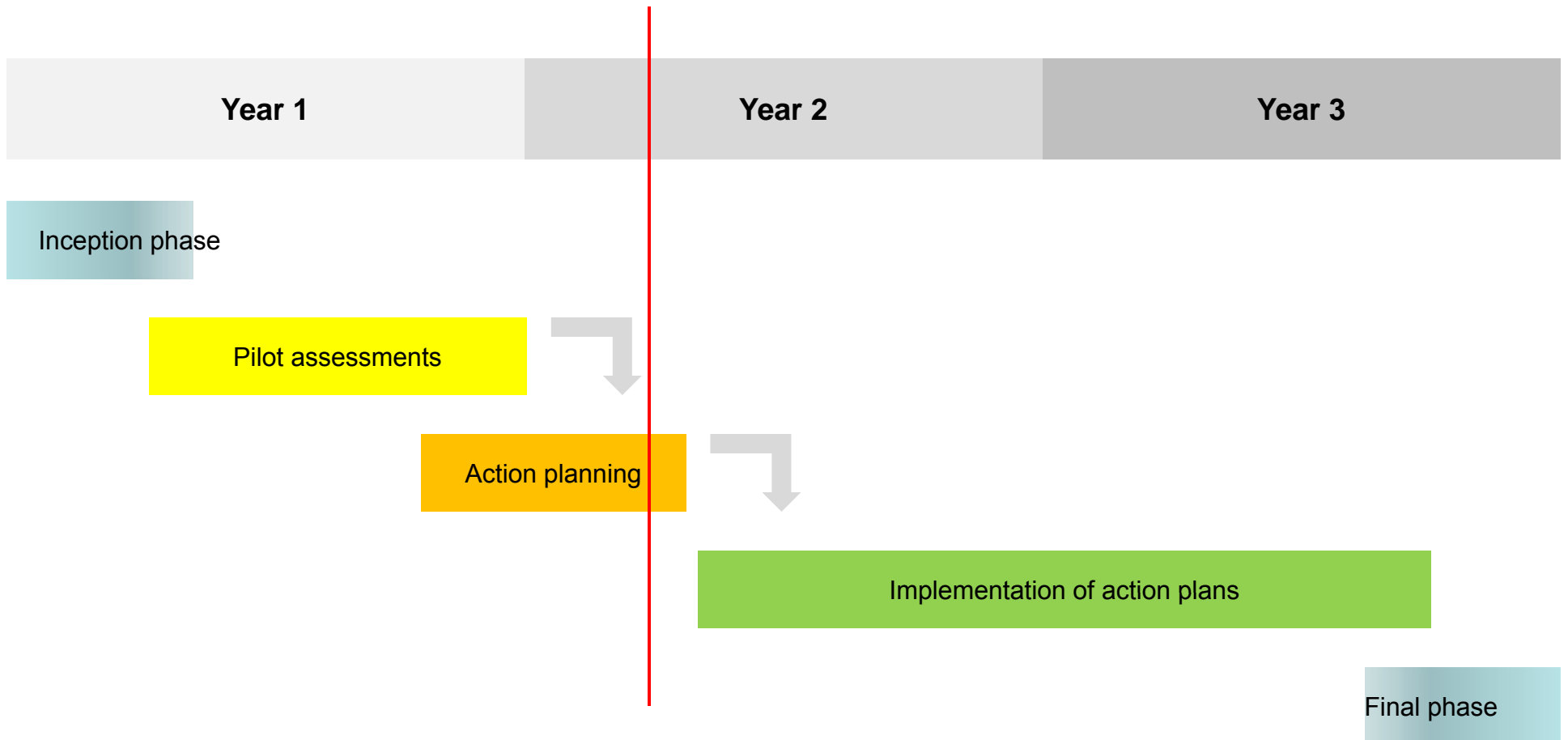
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# Achievements



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## TB assessments – Plitvice/Una and Neretva Delta

the tourist infrastructure has been more developed in the Brijuni, clearly mainly because the tourist infrastructure on Croatian side is close to the border) is hardly existing.

Other sectors of the local economy are a gypsum mine near to Kukur Vukot, a water bottling plant in Kukur Vukot, a fish farm in Blatinjci, and the wood processing facilities in Čukot.

The conflicts in the 1990s had a great impact on all these areas in focus. All of them had to face with hard postwar transition challenges, but today the socioeconomic situation between the regions differs significantly.

Even before the war, the economic activities in the Plitvice Lakes area were very much focused on tourism in the extended park. A total lack of any other sources of income still burdens the region. However, the fast recovery of tourism industry due to the NP Plitvice Lakes natural attractions and fame, contributed to the fact that the area today is the most recovered and fastest developing among the three.

Before the war, other areas around the Una River based their development on forestry, agriculture and food and wood processing industry, all of which collapsed during the war and postwar period and still show no signs of recovery. Therefore, the title side expects the new National Park Una to become a regional attraction. Similar to the Plitvice Lakes area, income from tourism is the only economic perspective.

Plitvice MC Coasts  
© GreenEye 3/2011



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Neretva delta, Croatia  
© Tomislav Bogdanic

ments, monuments from Roman times, villas, mosaics, epigraphs, etc.; remains of medieval fortresses; from the times of the Turkish occupation, and other.

Favourable natural conditions of the area are not only suitable for preserving sites of unique natural values, but the area also directly supports the living of its Bosnian population. Agriculture, hunting and fishing are traditional activities in the area, and due to the lack of other sources of income and recently increased unemployment, they gain more and more interest. As by now 40-50% of households own land, farming – especially the production of citrus fruits and vegetables in lower parts and olives at higher elevations – has become the most widespread economic activity. This is also due to the high fertility of land and the very favourable climate conditions, which for some crops allow for several harvests in one season. The Neretva Delta region has a great and still unexploited potential for tourism. Its rich in natural, cultural and archaeological values, and major tourism attractions

ain in the vicinity. Some of them are the historical city of Dubrovnik in Croatia, the Dalmatian coast, on the opposite side of Metković, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the historic town of Mostar (inscribed recently on UNESCO's World Heritage List). Although today tourism has a relatively little share in the local economy, the development and concrete realisation of new alternative tourism products could result in significant contribution of the sector, and bring additional income sources for the local population. Besides these significant local economic features, the region is also a component of some major existing and planned transportation routes. Traffic along the Dalmatian coast crosses the lower parts of the region, while transport corridors along the valley have an important role in linking Bosnia and Herzegovina with the Adriatic Sea and the Port of Ploče. The Adriatic-Ionian motorway and the highway between Ploče and Ruduša are still in the phase of planning. However, once implemented, they will have a major impact on the area both economically and ecologically.

Neretva Delta, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
© Michael Buehler / WWF Germany



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## Transboundary stakeholder process

- Three stakeholder meetings organized: Pluzine (MNE) – Durmitor/Sutjeska; Capljina (BiH) – Neretva Delta; Mitrovac (SRB) – Tara/Drina;
- Two MoUs on TB cooperation signed between PA authorities and CSOs (Durmitor/Sutjeska and Neretva Delta);
- Local Action Groups (LAG) in Albania and Montenegro set-up;
- Guideline on multi-stakeholder processes in a transboundary context commenced.







## Stakeholder process



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## Communication

- Project leaflet in 6 languages
- [www.dinaricarc.net](http://www.dinaricarc.net)
- Information sheet on LAGs & biodiversity values in progress

The Dinaric Arc in South Eastern Europe is an area with a rich natural and cultural heritage. The region hosts large and diverse forest types and healthy populations of large carnivores (brown bear, wolf, golden jackal), and is the most water-rich area in the Mediterranean in terms of freshwater ecosystems. However, these qualities are under threat due to the current economic crisis and previous socio-political circumstances. The effects of rural abandonment and degradation of the natural environment are having severe impacts on the livelihoods of many rural communities in the region.

Yet recent events have created an opportunity to safeguard the Dinaric Arc's biological and cultural diversity. At the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-10) the "Big Win" statement was released, moving the governments of South Eastern Europe closer to an emerging vision of a vast cross-border network of protected areas stretching across this ecologically important region. This joint commitment will help protect the region's rich biological and cultural diversity, favour the growth of national economies and provide a concrete basis for lasting regional cooperation.

Following up on the commitments made in the "Big Win", as well as on the premise of the Dinaric Arc Initiative, a number of organisations have joined forces to set up the project "Environment for People in the Dinaric Arc" which will run for three years, from 2009 to 2012, and will support cross-border cooperation for the conservation of key natural and cultural sites.

Covering six pilot sites, (NP Plavsko jezero NP Uva, NP Duvnarski Šumski, NP Tara-Orina, Banjeva Abta, Mountain Dinaric, and Ploče) / Bosna i Hercegovina the project will promote the natural and cultural values of the area, while enhancing local livelihoods through improved regional cooperation and strengthened environmental governance.

www.dinaricarc.net



## Next steps

- ▶ Continuation of the site based stakeholder process (i.e. Plitvice/Una NP)
- ▶ TB assessments (Tara NP/Drina, Mt. Dinara)
- ▶ Further actions on the development of LAGs
- ▶ Communication matters – web portal, comms material etc.
- ▶ Implementation of actions





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Thank you!