Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Environmental Protection

#ЕУ ЗА ТЕБЕ

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EU FOR NATURA 2000 IN SERBIA

December 2020 Newsletter

The "EU for Natura 2000 in Serbia" project started in May 2019, with the aim to support establishment of the Natura 2000 network. This network is a crucial instrument for biodiversity protection in the European Union, an ecological network of protected areas that are established to secure the survival of the most valuable species and habitats, promoting the protection of numerous ecosystems and ensuring that European nature systems stay healthy and resilient. It is based on the Birds and Habitat Directives, and its implementation is one of the requirements for the accession to the European Union.

Fieldwork activities and findings

From March to October 2020, successful fieldwork activities have been implemented with 1,047 field days, and 10,000 records gathered of 163 species and 57 types of habitats.

A total of 21 project experts have been in the field gathering data about the species listed in the reference lists (annexe species from Birds and Habitats Directive which occur in Serbia). More than 68 species of birds with 972 records from the Annex I of Birds Directive have been monitored, with remarkably interesting data of some species which presence has not been documented from time ago, like Petronia petronia and Cisticola juncidis in the Presevo area.





Regarding mapping of habitat types (forest and non-forest), the experts gathered around **9,000 data records** about habitat types, with more than 25,000 data records about their typical species. From the total of 75 habitat types listed in Serbia, 44 non-forest habitat types and 12 forest types have been mapped.

From 47 species of mammals, a total of 25 have been monitored with more than 200 records. 11 species of Amphibians and reptiles, 37 species of fishes and 65 species of invertebrates have been monitored in **113 localities in Serbia**.

Project is implemented by a consortium led by eptisa Southeast Europe d.o.o.

Photo contest "Natura 2000 in the frame"



In cooperation with Energy Portal, the project organized a photo contest from 14th September to 27th November. The intention of the photo contest was to show the importance of biodiversity conservation and to present the beauty and diversity of natural landscapes in Serbia with an emphasis on the species that will be part of the Natura 2000 network.

For 11 weeks, a professional jury had the opportunity to see thousands of received photos made by professional and amateur photographers. The three winning photographs were selected by the members of the jury: Team Leader of the "EU for Natura 2000 in Serbia" project Ana Iñigo, the Project Manager in the Delegation of the EU to Serbia Antoine Avignon, the Head of Department of Ecological Networks and Eligibility Assessment from Ministry of Environmental Protection, Snezana Prokic, the photographer Bojan Džodan, the multi-media artist Mina Radovic and Editor in Chief of Energy Portal Nevena Djukic.

The online award ceremony was held on 17th December through the EU Info Center Facebook channel and photographers Levente Szekeres as first winner with his photo „Feeding", Violeta Milutinovic with second prize for her photo „Defiance" and Anica Zupunski in the third position with the photo „Tisa's flower" were awarded.

Mobile app "TERENSKA"

The project has developed the mobile application "Terenska", based on field mapping methodologies prepared in close cooperation with leading national experts from national scientific instituions. The application can be used by researchers during field data gathering for habitats and species, with a total of 40 attributes available for each. Location, the selection of the species and the habitat type, the floristic composition of the habitats and the possibility to include photos, videos and audios are the main important attributes. Data collected is uploaded to a server for later evaluation to establish the Natura 2000 network.

"EU for Natura 2000 in Serbia" on the Green Fest

The international festival dedicated to green culture "Green Fest" under the topic "What future we want" was held online due to the specific pandemic situation from 26th October to 4th November. The project used the ocassion of this big and important event in Serbia to spread the importance of nature conservation as well as the essential role of the Natura 2000 network during the panel discussion "EU Green Deal, nature and climate changes" held on 2nd November. It was discussing how the EU Green Deal can be the support to establishing of ecological network Natura 2000 and decreasing risks of climate change. One of the topics was how protected areas could help us to mitigate climate changes and to comply with it.



During the festival, 13 nature films, 5 animated films, 16 short films and 9 in the category of Southeast Europe films were presented. Speaking of winning films Team Leader of the project Ana Inigo, member of the jury who has selected film winners, said that all films were clear in their message and convey to the viewer the tragedy of environmental deterioration, showing the importance that natural resources have for us.

Drafting of the legislation assessment report

During the project implementation, the main legislation related to nature conservation and environmental protection has been assessed. The legal experts of the project have analysed the Law on Nature Protection and all related by-laws, as well as sectoral legislation such as: Planning and Development legislation, Forestry legislation, Hunting legislation, Fishing legislation, Water legislation, and other relevant legislation (IPPC, mining, phytosanitary rules). The result of this analysis has been the gap assessment report for implementation and compliance with EU nature protection acquis, which highlighted key needs for improvements. From this important assessment will be drafted the recommendations for amendments of the Law of Nature Protection and other primary and secondary legislation.

Caravan for Climate

The project supported "Caravan for Climate"- a project designed by the French Institute in Serbia in 2018, and implemented in partnership with the Center for the Promotion of Science (www.karavanzaklimu.rs).

The intention of "Caravan for Climate" is to connect organizations and individuals in the fight against climate change and the protection of biodiversity, as well as to reinforce citizen's awareness of the importance of knowing and identifying protected species and the importance of protected areas in Serbia.





The traveling exhibit of "Caravan for Climate" started on 29th September in Nis in the Officer's House by the civil organization Zeleni kljuc (Green Key) where the launching ceremony has been celebrated. The exhibition is the most influential part of the project, and who has visited at least 8 cities across Serbia. The event included representatives from the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, the United Nations Development Program, the Ministry of the Environmental protection, French Embassy and the Center for Promotion of Science. A short film was prepared by the project about field visits dedicated to protected species and habitats.

Capacity building workshop

The Natura 2000 project is also supporting development of essential capacities for the future management of the Natura 2000 network in Serbia. The project has prepared a plan for strengthening the administrative capacity for implementation of Natura 2000. This plan, together with the future training seminars that the project will implement, have been discussed with the main stakeholders of the project in a workshop held on 6th October 2020.



