

Nature Protection WG

Martin Smutny, KE3

3rd ECRAN Steering Committee Meeting

Zagreb, April 23, 2015



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

Overview of key activities within the reporting period

- Implementation of the last one from the series of three workshops on Appropriate Assessment (AA)
- Training on Natura 2000 establishment
- Initial and follow-up missions to ECRAN countries aimed at launching the assessment of readiness for Natura 2000 establishment
- Continuation of preparation of Participatory Management Plan for the future NP Alps – inception event and situation analysis workshop



Task 2.7.1: Annual Meeting

- The 2nd Annual Meeting was organized in Vienna, on 11 February 2015.
 - Discussion on the project activities carried out since the 1st Annual Meeting i.e. especially support to AA pilots, Natura 2000 Assessments and NP Alps pilot support;
 - Presentation of and the discussion on the work plan for 2015.
- The activities implemented were acknowledged by the participants as successful and meeting their expectations and needs. The representatives of the beneficiary countries agreed with proposed workplan for 2015.



Task 2.7.2A: Pilot AA

- Preparation and delivery of 3rd regional workshop on AA in Ankara, Turkey with site visit to the selected AA pilot site, Lake Tuz, 12 – 14 November 2014.
 - Mainly intended for Turkish audience, however with wide international representation (Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia)
 - EU MS experience on the selected topics was shared by the lecturers from Czech Republic and Croatia.



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

Task 2.7.2B: Regional training on the process of designation of potential Natura 2000 sites

- Podgorica, Montenegro, November 4 – 5 November 2014.
- Training covered theoretical and practical aspects of the establishment of Natura 2000 network.
- Lecturers from Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic and Croatia
- Theory supported by practical examples from CZ, HR, and HU illustrating not only the best practice but also problems
- 44 participants from all beneficiary countries (representatives of the nature and biodiversity departments from the ministries responsible for environment, institutes for nature conservation and environmental protection agencies)



Task 2.7.2B: Regional training on the process of designation of potential Natura 2000 sites

- Workshop report written differently than usual
- Rather than describing the course of the workshop, it provides a manual describing all stages and steps (in the right order) of Natura 2000 preparation from A to Z
- It can be used by any ECRAN country as an outline for
 - Natura 2000 preparation
 - Drafting of project proposals for Natura 2000
 - Checking project applications as to their correctness (from IPA as well as other funding programmes)



Task 2.7.2C: Assessment of readiness of ECRAN countries for Natura 2000 establishment

- 1st round of visits completed in Oct 2014 (Montenegro, Serbia)
- Initial summary of data and documents gathered so far compiled
- 2nd round initiated by visits to Kosovo (Feb 2015) and Montenegro (March 2015)
- Draft assessment report on the state of readiness of the countries for Natura 2000 preparation is prepared for each beneficiary country separately and will be discussed with their competent authorities before finalisation.



Task 2.7.3: Design and delivery of Regional Awareness Raising Programme

- Delivery planned for 2Q 2015 and 2016 only (four regional seminars)



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

Task 2.7.4: Participatory Management Plan

- PMP for future National Park “The Alps” in Albania
- Inception event
 - Introducing ECRAN and its planned activities to local stakeholders
 - Inform stakeholders about PAs management plans and the process of preparing a MP
- Situation analysis workshop
 - Identification of problems and opportunities
 - Agreement on a vision with reference to concrete values, and long-term objectives for the NP Alps
 - Identification of data gaps



Task 2.7.5: Establishment of Regional Cooperation among Nature Protected Areas

- WWF and IUCN had been working on the similar task already resulting with the establishment of Dinaric Parks Association (DPA) in October 2014 covering all ECRAN beneficiary countries but Turkey.
- For ECRAN activities it was decided to re-direct this activity into the field where more assistance is needed in ECRAN region; as such an activity, trade in endangered species (CITES) was selected.



Planning for next period

- Task 2.7.1: No activities planned
- Task 2.7.2:
 - Field appropriate assessments (AA) carried out at each pilot site: Lake Tuz (Turkey) – April 2015; Tikvesh reserve (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) – May 2015; protected areas Okanj Bara and Rusanda (Vojvodina Province, Serbia) – June 2015.
 - Country assessments for the readiness for Natura 2000 establishment – 2nd round of missions to remaining ECRAN countries (AL, MK, RS, TR) will be conducted resulting in the first draft assessment reports, and upon agreement, the initial mission to BiH resulting in gathering information and relevant documents about the state-of-art over there



Planning for next period

- Task 2.7.3:
 - Preparation and delivery of regional training on Natura 2000 – from theory to practice (May 25 – 28, 2015, Czech Republic)
 - Preparation of regional seminar on protected areas in the 21st century (October 2015). This regional seminar will have the objective to provide a forum for discussion on some of the most frequent questions raised in relation to protected areas



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

Planning for next period

- Task 2.7.4:
 - Original schedule delayed due to delays in zoning preparation (by GlZ), therefore it is proposed to shift the activities planned for spring 2015 to autumn 2015, with final outputs in the first half of 2016 (final consultation meeting).
 - Two events in autumn 2015
 - Combined stakeholders and planning meeting (tentative timing: September/October);
 - Presentation on participatory approach and ECRAN experience gained so far combined with the 2.7.3 awareness raising regional seminar on protected areas.



Planning for next period

- Task 2.7.5
 - Preparation and delivery of regional conference on General requirements under CITES and the EU wildlife trade regulations CITES, Podgorica, Montenegro, 02 – 04 June 2015.



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium

Main impacts

- ☺ Task 2.7.2 A: Workshop in Turkey attended by people not only from nature protection but from other related sectors too, the topics raised high interest and the request has been made to organise a dedicated event (seminar/training) on Natura 2000 and its management, similarly to the one on Natura 2000 training organised in Podgorica within subtask B.
- ☺ Task 2.7.2 B: Natura 2000 establishment training provided the participants with complete overview of the whole process of Natura 2000, workshop report represents a 'manual' for Natura 2000 implementation



Main impacts

- ☺ Task 2.7.2 C has a big long term potential to substantially improve preparation of individual country Natura 2000 proposals. The final output of this task will provide each of the beneficiary countries with a sort of “step-by-step-manual” and EC will be given comparative assessment of the state-of-art in all ECRAN countries
- ☺ Task 2.7.4: Support provided to pilot site NP Alps got a very positive feedback from local inhabitants who claim that it is for the first time in history when they have been approached by the authorities and have the possibility to influence the management of area they live in. Based on information from public meetings MoE rejected draft management plans. The ECRAN activities performed so far also triggered and speeded up the initiation of zoning activities funded by GIZ.



Thank you for your attention!



This Project is funded by the European Union



Project implemented by Human Dynamics Consortium