
Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN)

Workshop Report on Regional Capacity Building on Compliance with Environmental Legislation - Nature Inspection -

30 September – 02 October 2015, Bitola

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMA REGIONAL NETWORK FOR ACCESSION - ECRAN

WORKSHOP REPORT

Activity 1.2.6

CAPACITY BUILDING ON COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

NATURE INSPECTION

Bitola, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

30 September - 2 October 2015



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Appropriate Assessment
CB	Captive Bred
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLP	Classification, Labelling and Packaging
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Environmental Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAD	Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning
ENPE	European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment
EPI	Environmental Protection Inspection
EU	European Union
HD	Habitats Directive
HV	Croatian Waters
IED	Industrial Emissions Directive
IMPEL	The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law
IPPC	Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
N2K	Natura 2000
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restrictions of Chemicals
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SCI	Sites of Community Importance
SEAD	Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive
SEE	South East Europe
SEI	State Inspector for the Environment
SINP	State Inspectors for Nature Protection
SPA	Special Protection Areas



I. Background/Rationale

Within the RENA programme, the objective of the ECENA Working Group on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement was to improve the ability of RENA member countries to implement and enforce the EU environmental and climate acquis by increasing the effectiveness of inspecting bodies and promoting compliance with environmental requirements.

The activities for the period 2010-2013 were based on a Multi Annual Work Plan, covering the following areas:

- Training and exchange,
- Institutional and methodological development,
- Cross border enforcement.

The activities planned under ECRAN in this area will build on the results achieved under RENA. Since the work of inspectors and permit writers has to be more coordinated and connected to other activities within the environmental protection area, it has been decided that ECENA under ECRAN should be of cross cutting nature. This is particularly important as the work of ECENA is dealing with both implementation and enforcement of the EU acquis. Cooperation with policy makers and law drafters has to be strengthened in order to enable developing better implementable legislation.

The work plan covers the full period of ECRAN (i.e. October 2013 – October 2016). Under this ECENA work plan, the following specific activities have been decided to be implemented:

1.2.1 Capacity building on compliance with environmental legislation

1.2.2 External country assessments

1.2.3 Methodological development - application of IRAM/easy Tools

1.2.4 Compliance with REACH/CLP Regulations;

1.2.5 Trans frontier Shipment of Waste (TFS);

1.2.6 Inspection and enforcement in other policy areas;

1.2.7 Inspector's participation in networking activities.

The beneficiaries are the Ministries of Environment of the beneficiary countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo^{*1}, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey). In addition the other ministries and other bodies and institutions will need to be actively engaged in so far as their work is relevant for the scope of ECRAN.

The overall objective of ECRAN is to strengthen regional cooperation between the EU candidate countries and potential candidates in the fields of environment and climate action and to assist them on their way towards the transposition and implementation of the EU environmental and climate policies, political targets and instruments which is a key precondition for EU accession.

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



Task 1.2.6 Inspection and enforcement in other policy areas - Nature Inspection-

Under Inspection and enforcement in other policy areas a link has been made to Nature Inspection, building on the activities delivered under ECENA in this area in the previous period. Considering that in the area of nature protection, the target institutions and beneficiaries are the Ministries responsible for legislation in the environmental *acquis*, a special focus has now been placed on the enforcement aspects in nature protection (e.g., Habitats (92/43/EEC, in particular related to Annex V) and Wild birds (2009/147/EC) Directives).

The workshops under ECRAN have been built on the results of the ECENA programme under RENA, with its workshops in Lake Ohrid and Lake Skhodra, and has next to the attention for cross border issues in nature inspection also paid attention to related and cross-cutting issues.

The latter not only refers to cross-cutting issues in for example forestry and nature protection but also to those of nature legislation with other pieces of environmental legislation, including the IED and EIA. Trade in illegally harvested timber and trade in endangered species are other elements to receive attention (ref. EU timber regulation, CITES convention, Environmental Crime Directive). Under ECRAN a first workshop has been held in Croatia (Kopacki Rit Nature Park) on 21 -23 October 2014.

Considering the enforcement aspects many issues are relevant including:

- the need for transboundary cooperation;
- the need for joint management (for example harmonized monitoring indicators, centralized joint baseline data, and monitoring data);
- legal framework harmonisation with integrated roles into national legislation.

Depending on the area strengthening the regulatory and enforcement capacity might be needed for specific nature aspects but also for fisheries, forestry, and water management, pollution control and environmental management in general and aforementioned illegal trade aspects.

Chapter 2 describes the background and objectives of activity 1.2.1 with the 2nd Multi-country Workshop Capacity Building on Compliance with Environmental Legislation – Nature Inspection - and the topics that have been addressed.

Chapter 3 describes the EU policy and legislation covered by the training;

Chapter 4 presents the workshop proceedings and Chapter 5 presents the evaluation. Furthermore the following Annexes are attached:

- Annex I: the agenda;
- Annex II: List of participants;
- Annex III: Power point presentations (downloadable under separate cover):
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/ECENA>

II. Objectives of the training

General objectives

Increasing the effectiveness of inspection bodies and promoting compliance with environmental requirements

Specific objectives

Increased capacity in the field of planning of Nature Inspection with attention for cross border cooperation and cross-cutting issues.

Target group

The target institutions and beneficiaries are the Ministries responsible for implementation of the environmental acquis with a special focus on the enforcement aspects in nature protection and its cross-cutting issues in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey

Results/outputs

The following results are expected for this activity:

- Improved knowledge base and understanding of the required legal and institutional requirements with compliance, and enforcement aspects in cross border nature protection areas at key staff of the inspection bodies;
- Strengthened regional network of South East Europe (SEE) professionals and experts in nature protection areas with its compliance and enforcement aspects;
- Improved knowledge of a number of related and cross-cutting issues.



III. EU policy and legislation covered by the training

Starting point is the EU Biodiversity policy and the EU Nature legislation to promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.

(see http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/intro/index_en.htm)

Biodiversity matters for *Ethical, Emotional, Environmental and Economic reasons*. Ecosystems have intrinsic value. They provide emotional and aesthetic experiences. They offer outstanding opportunities for recreation. They clean our water, purify our air and maintain our soils. They regulate the climate, recycle nutrients and provide us with food. They provide raw materials and resources for medicines and other purposes. They form the foundation on which we build our societies. However, biodiversity loss has accelerated to an unprecedented level, both in Europe and worldwide. It has been estimated that the current global extinction rate is 1000 to 10000 times higher than the natural background extinction rate. In Europe some 42% of European mammals are endangered, together with 15% of birds and 45% of butterflies and reptiles.

The training covered mainly the EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, EC Birds Directive 79/409/EEC, the EU Timber Regulation (EU) No 995/2010, CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law, cross-cutting issues of Nature legislation with IED and non-IED installations.

The Habitats and the Wild Birds Directives

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) and the Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) form the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy. It is built around two pillars: the Natura 2000 network of protected sites and the strict system of species protection.

The Habitats Directive protects over 1.000 animals and plant species and over 200 so called "habitat types" which are of European importance. The EU is committed to the protection of biodiversity and to halting biodiversity loss within the EU by 2020.

Over the last 25 years the EU has built up a vast network of 26.000 protected areas in all the Member States and an area of more than 750.000 km², which is 18% of the EU's land area. This ecological network or the Natura 2000 is the largest network of protected areas in the world, and a testament to the importance that EU citizens attach to biodiversity.

The objective of the Habitats Directive is to "maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and wild flora and fauna". Article 3 of the Directive provides for the establishment of "a coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation" under the title of Natura 2000 (Annex I Habitats and Annex II species to be maintained or restored). Article 4 further elaborates on the Annex III and the criteria for selecting sites eligible for identification as Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and designation as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).



The designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are carried out in three stages;

1. The responsibility for proposing sites under the Habitats Directive lies with the Member States. They carry out comprehensive assessments of each of the habitat types and species present on their territory. The choice of sites is a purely scientific process, based on standard selection criteria specified in the directive.
2. On the basis of the proposed national lists, the Commission, in agreement with the Member States, must adopt the lists of “Sites of Community Importance”. Scientific seminars are then convened by the Commission for each bio-geographical region in order to analyse the Member States’ proposals in a transparent way. They are open to the Member States concerned and to experts representing relevant stakeholder interests, including owners, users, and environmental NGOs. These seminars are supported by the European Environment Agency, assisted by the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity which is based in Paris, France. These expert seminars aim to establish if sufficient high-quality sites have been proposed by each Member State to ensure the favourable conservation status of each habitat type and species throughout their range in the EU. The objective is to establish a list of “Sites of Community Importance” for each of the regions determined by the Habitats Directive, applying a consistent approach across the Member States.
3. Once the lists of “Sites of Community Importance” have been adopted, it is for the Member States to designate all of these sites as “Special Areas of Conservation”, as required by the Habitats Directive, as soon as possible and within six years at the most. They should give priority to those sites that are most threatened and/or that are of most importance in conservation terms. During this period, Member States must take the necessary management or restoration measures to ensure the favourable conservation status of those sites.

The Habitats Directive divides the EU into 9 ecologically coherent “bio-geographical” regions – the Atlantic, Continental, Alpine (which includes the Pyrenees, the Alps, the Carpathian mountains and parts of Scandinavia), Mediterranean, Boreal (Finland, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia and part of Lithuania), the Macaronesian (Madeira, Azores and Canary Islands), the Pannonian (essentially Hungary and parts of the Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia), the Steppic and the Black Sea region (parts of Bulgaria and Romania).

Natura 2000 sites are selected according to each bio-geographical region. Working on this level makes it easier to conserve species and habitat types under similar natural conditions across a suite of countries.

Article 6 is one of the most important articles in the Habitats Directive as it defines how Natura 2000 sites are managed and protected.

Paragraphs 6(1) and 6(2) require that, within Natura 2000, Member States:

- Take appropriate conservation measures to maintain and restore the habitats and species for which the site has been designated to a favourable conservation status;
- Avoid damaging activities that could significantly disturb these species or deteriorate the habitats of the protected species or habitat types.



Paragraphs 6(3) and 6(4) lay down the procedure to be followed when planning new developments that might affect a Natura 2000 site. Thus:

- Any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall undergo an Appropriate Assessment to determine its implications for the site. The competent authorities can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned (Article 6.3)
- In exceptional circumstances, a plan or project may still be allowed to go ahead, in spite of a negative assessment, provided there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project is considered to be of overriding public interest. In such cases the Member State must take appropriate compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of the N2000 Network is protected. (Article 6.4)

Article 8 is about the financing of Natura 2000; although the main responsibility for it lies with the Member States, the article explicitly links delivery of necessary conservation measures to the provision of the EU co-financing (EARDs, European Fisheries Fund, European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund and Life +).

The Habitats Directive also comprises a "2nd pillar", which is related to the protection of species. In particular, Articles 12 and 16 are aimed at the establishment and implementation of a strict protection regime for animal species listed in Annex IV(a) of the Habitats Directive within the whole territory of Member States.

The Birds Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (this is the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) is the EU's oldest piece of nature legislation and one of the most important, creating a comprehensive scheme of protection for all wild bird species naturally occurring in the Union. It was adopted unanimously by the Member States in 1979 as a response to increasing concern about the declines in Europe's wild bird populations resulting from pollution, loss of habitats as well as unsustainable use. It was also in recognition that wild birds, many of which are migratory, are a shared heritage of the Member States and that their effective conservation required international co-operation.

The directive recognises that habitat loss and degradation are the most serious threats to the conservation of wild birds. It therefore places great emphasis on the protection of habitats for endangered as well as migratory species (listed in Annex I), especially through the establishment of a coherent network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) comprising all the most suitable territories for these species. Since 1994 all SPAs form an integral part of the NATURA 2000 ecological network.

The Birds Directive bans activities that directly threaten birds, such as the deliberate killing or capture of birds, the destruction of their nests and taking of their eggs, and associated activities such as trading in live or dead birds, with a few exceptions (listed in Annex III - III/1 allows taking in all Member States; III/2 allows taking in Member States in agreement with European Commission). The Directive recognises hunting as a legitimate activity and provides a comprehensive system for the management of hunting (limited to species listed in Annex II - II/1 allows hunting in all Member States; II/2 allows hunting in listed Member States) to ensure that this practice is sustainable. This

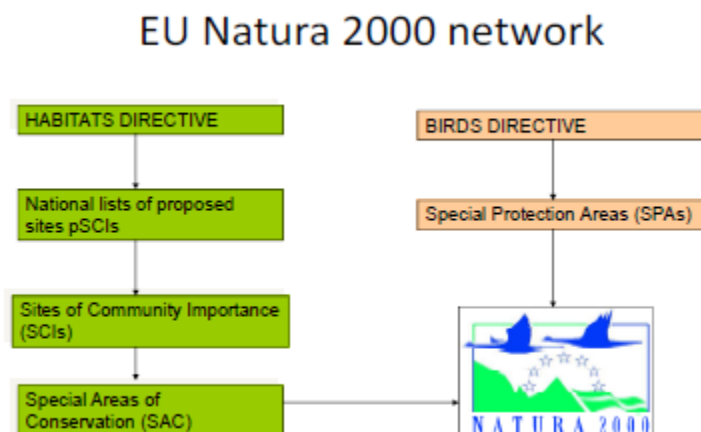


includes a requirement to ensure that birds are not hunted during the periods of their greatest vulnerability, such as the return migration to the nesting areas, reproduction and the raising of chicks. It requires Member States to outlaw all forms of non-selective and large scale killing of birds, (especially the methods listed in Annex IV). It promotes research to underpin the protection, management and use of all species of birds covered by the Directive (Annex V).

The Annexes to the Birds Directive have been adapted on a number of occasions in response to scientific and technical progress and to the successive enlargements of the European Union. The most recent adaption is in response to the Accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union on 1 January 2007. As in the case of the 2004 enlargement, most changes concern the annexes of the directives. In the first place new typical and endangered species and habitats in the new Member States have been added to the annexes, with a limited number of geographic exceptions granted.

In August 2007 the journal Science published an analysis showing that the Birds Directive has made a significant difference in protecting many of Europe's most threatened birds from further decline. The ground-breaking paper shows that the Birds Directive has clearly helped those species considered to be most at risk, partly through the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Below: the diagram explaining the interlinkages of the Directives towards the establishment of the Natura 2000 sites.



Related and Cross-cutting issues

Related and cross-cutting issues not only refers to legislation on for example forestry and nature protection but also to the nature legislation with other pieces of environmental legislation, including the IED and EIA. Trade in illegally harvested timber and trade in endangered species are other elements to receive attention (ref. EU timber regulation, CITES convention, Environmental Crime Directive).

The EU Timber regulation

Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market – also

known as the (Illegal) Timber Regulation counters the trade in illegally harvested timber and timber products through three key obligations(http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/timber_regulation.htm):

- It prohibits the placing on the EU market for the first time of illegally harvested timber and products derived from such timber;
- It requires EU traders who place timber products on the EU market for the first time to exercise 'due diligence';
- Once on the market, the timber and timber products may be sold on and/or transformed before they reach the final consumer. To facilitate the traceability of timber products economic operators in this part of the supply chain (referred to as traders in the regulation) have an obligation to keep records of their suppliers and customers.

The Regulation covers a wide range of timber products listed in its Annex using EU Custom's code nomenclature.

The application of the Regulation started from 3rd March 2013.

The Regulation covers a broad range of timber products including solid wood products, flooring, plywood, pulp and paper. Not included are recycled products, as well as printed papers such as books, magazines and newspapers. The product scope can be amended if necessary.

The Regulation applies to both imported and domestically produced timber and timber products. Timber and timber products covered by valid FLEGT (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/flegt.htm>) or CITES licenses (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/home_en.htm) are considered to comply with the requirements of the Regulation.

The Regulation is legally binding on all 27 EU Member States, which are responsible for laying down effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties and for enforcing the Regulation.

The Regulation provides for "Monitoring organizations" to be recognised by the European Commission. These organisations which will be private entities, will provide EU operators with operational due diligence systems. Operators can thus develop their own system or use one developed by a monitoring organisation

CITES

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Widespread information nowadays about the endangered status of many prominent species, such as the tiger and elephants, might make the need for such a convention seem obvious. But at the time when the ideas for CITES were first formed, in the 1960s, international discussion of the regulation of wildlife trade for conservation purposes was something relatively new. With hindsight, the need for CITES is clear. Annually, international wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of dollars and to include hundreds of millions of plant and animal specimens. The trade is diverse, ranging



from live animals and plants to a vast array of wildlife products derived from them, including food products, exotic leather goods, wooden musical instruments, timber, tourist curios and medicines. Levels of exploitation of some animal and plant species are high and the trade in them, together with other factors, such as habitat loss, is capable of heavily depleting their populations and even bringing some species close to extinction. Many wildlife species in trade are not endangered, but the existence of an agreement to ensure the sustainability of the trade is important in order to safeguard these resources for the future.

Because the trade in wild animals and plants crosses borders between countries, the effort to regulate it requires international cooperation to safeguard certain species from over-exploitation. CITES was conceived in the spirit of such cooperation. Today, it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 35,000 species of animals and plants, whether they are traded as live specimens, fur coats or dried herbs.

CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union). The text of the Convention was finally agreed at a meeting of representatives of 80 countries in Washington, D.C., the United States of America, on 3 March 1973, and on 1 July 1975 CITES entered in force. CITES is an international agreement to which States (countries) adhere voluntarily. States that have agreed to be bound by the Convention ('joined' CITES) are known as Parties. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties – in other words they have to implement the Convention – it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.

For many years CITES has been among the conservation agreements with the largest membership, with now 180 Parties (<http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/parties/index.php>).

Due to the European Single Market and the absence of systematic border controls within the EU, the provisions of CITES have to be implemented uniformly in all EU Member States. CITES is implemented in the EU through a set of Regulations known as the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/legislation_en.htm).

Environmental Crime Directive

Environmental crime covers acts that breach environmental legislation and cause significant harm or risk to the environment and human health. Environmental crimes cause significant damage to the environment in Europe and the world. At the same time they provide for very high profits for perpetrators and relatively low risks of detection. Very often, environmental crimes have a cross border aspect. Environmental crime is a serious and growing problem that needs to be tackled at European level (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/crime/index.htm>).

Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law aims at obliging Member States to impose criminal penalties on certain behaviour which is seriously detrimental to the environment. This minimum threshold for harmonisation will allow environmental legislation to be better applied, in line with the objective for the protection of the environment laid down in Article 174 of the Treaty establishing the European Community (EC Treaty).



Behaviour subject to penalties

Member States should class the following behaviour as a criminal offence, if a Community regulation in the area of environmental protection is infringed and if the behaviour is committed intentionally or through serious negligence:

- unlawful, discharge into air, soil or water, of materials or ionising radiation which causes or is likely to cause death or serious injury to any person or substantial damage to the environment;
- unlawful collection, transport, recovery or disposal of waste which causes or is likely to cause death or serious injury to any person or substantial damage to the environment;
- unlawful shipment of waste in a non-negligible quantity;
- unlawful operation of a plant in which a dangerous activity is carried out or in which dangerous substances or preparations are stored or used, and which causes or is likely to cause death or serious injury to any person or substantial damage to the environment;
- the unlawful manufacture, treatment, storage, use, transport, import or export or disposal of nuclear materials or other hazardous radioactive substances which causes or is likely to cause death or serious injury to any person or substantial damage to the environment;
- the unlawful killing, destruction, possession or taking of, or trade in, protected animal and plant species;
- unlawful damage to protected habitats;
- unlawful trade in or use of ozone-depleting substances.

Member States should also ensure that inciting, aiding and abetting the committing of a criminal act is also punishable.

Nature protection in permitting and inspection of industrial installations

([ref.http://impel.eu/projects/nature-protection-in-permitting-and-inspection-of-industrial-installations/](http://impel.eu/projects/nature-protection-in-permitting-and-inspection-of-industrial-installations/))

The link between permitting activities for industrial installations (IED and non-IED activities) and Natura 2000 sites is defined in Article 6 of Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

According to Article 6 par. 3

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site ... the national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

According to Articles 12 and 13 Member States have to ensure the protection of certain animal and plant species.



In 2013 IMPEL explored the need for projects dealing with requirements concerning nature protection in permitting and inspection of industrial installations. Via a brief questionnaire the project team identified that in all participating countries permit writers have to consider protected areas and species and that problems occur. Concerning Natura 2000 sites it was identified that permit writers face the following challenges:

- difficulty in assessing the likelihood of significant impacts on site's conservation objectives due to the lack of information and the management plans;
- lack of scientific studies and concrete criteria for the assessment of "significant" effects and its likelihood beyond reasonable scientific doubt;
- difficulties in determining boundaries for the assessment;
- difficulties in the identification of contributors for the cumulative impact assessment.

Due to the lack of knowledge in several related fields, it was recommended to have a follow-up IMPEL-project in this field and to concentrate first on the needs of permit writers.

This project continues to focus on capacity building, awareness raising, extend the network, strengthen collaboration among EU nature conservation authorities. Bringing together IED permit writers and inspectors with nature authorities and inspectors.

This project will deliver:

- An overview and exchange of good practices for promoting compliance/enforcement of permit conditions in accordance with Art. 6(3) of the Habitats Directive;
- Recommendation for MS on appropriate assessment in accordance with Art. 6(3) of the Habitats Directive in a Guidance document for IMPEL on appropriate assessment;
- Identification of the most frequent challenges jeopardizing the correct implementation of Art. 6(3) Habitats Directive;
- Capacity development by benchmarking appropriate assessment under Art. 6(3) Habitats Directive;
- Identification for which item(s) additional tools / guidance is needed.



IV. Highlights from the training workshop

Reference is made to Annex I for the agenda and Annex III for the presentations.

Day 1 – Hotel Millenium Palace, Bitola, 30 September

1. The workshop was opened by Mr. Ike van der Putte (ECRAN ECENA coordinator) with asking the participants to share a minute's silence in memory of Mr. Martin Baranyai, who has been a leading expert in the series of workshops under Nature Inspection. A short welcoming was given with an introduction on ECRAN and the ECENA Programme. The information on ECRAN and ECENA has been given including project summary, results achieved in the implementation period, structures and planned activities.
2. An introductory round was held among the presenters and subsequently among the participants with the question on the years of experience as inspectors, policymakers and other fields. The results showed that most of participants have extensive knowledge and experience in inspection. A number of 12 participants has participated in the 1st workshop under ECRAN (Kopacki Rit), 3 in the Skhodra Lake workshop under RENA and 1 in the Ohrid Lake workshop under RENA.

	Years of experience		
	1 – 5 years	5 – 10 years	More than 10 years
Inspectors	3	5	5
Permit writers		2	1
Policy Makers/Others	2	2	3

1. *Introductions to EU legislation on nature and closely related/cross cutting issues covered in the programme.* Mr. Ike van der Putte (ECRAN ECENA coordinator) presented the various issues on: Biodiversity; International Conventions with the Cornerstones EU Legislation on Nature.

Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended 2009/147/EC) with the Natura 2000 sites. Special attention was given to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Management Plans

Under the strongly related and Cross cutting Issues a brief introduction was given on:

- EU Timber Regulation;
- Environmental Crime Directive;
- Nature/IED interactions.

As in the 1st workshop under ECRAN attention had already been paid to the subjects of EU Timber Regulation and the Environmental Crime Directive, new elements have been added which amongst others include the subject of illegal killing/poisoning of birds and the practical experience in Croatia in Nature Site Management.

2. *Nature site management planning (1)*. Mr. Syd House gave an illustration of good practice in Implementing Natura 2000 with his presentation on Management Planning for Natura 2000 sites with background details for Scotland, general requirements for Management Planning for Natura 2000 and some case studies.

The current issues in Scotland are:

- Politics – Less money for public services? Independence? In/out EU?
- Developing land use strategy to optimise multiple benefits (including lost species re-introduction);
- Land reform to encourage greater spread of ownership & community involvement in land use decisions;
- Changing rural economy & rural incentives;
- Key Government commitment to have Natura 2000 sites in Favourable Conservation Status.

There are many threats to habitats and most sites are in private ownership. Key habitats across Scotland are marine and associated species, peat bogs and open moorland, raptors, and migratory birds and some woodland. Management plans defined as ‘An easily understood set of principles in an accessible form, by which a defined area (small or large) may be managed’ to achieve stated objectives, are therefore considered of key importance.



The essentials of management plans were introduced by a series of questions:

- What are the assets and why are they important?
- What are the objectives of management & desired outcomes?
- Who are the key stakeholders with an interest in the Plan and have they been involved in drafting the Plan?
- Who is responsible for drafting the Plan & then delivering it?

- Who will monitor progress and amend as necessary?
- Who will judge success and/or failure and how will they recognise it?

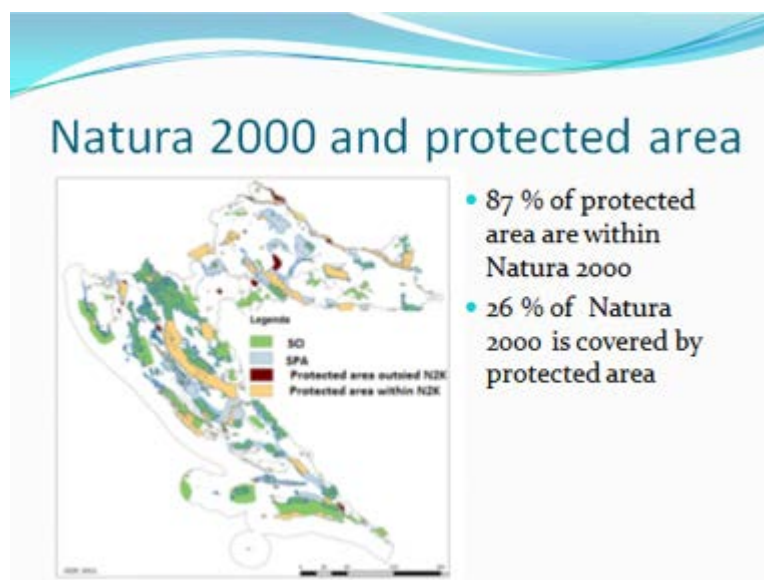
The reasons for having a management plan (Why have a management Plan) is that it clarifies thinking and requires to set priorities.

An example of a Management Plan from woodland sites in Scotland was given with reference to the Black Wood of Rannoch as a designated SAC under the EC Habitats Directive (SAC EU code UK0012758). The Black Wood has been selected as a SAC because it comprises Caledonian Forest, a habitat endangered on a European basis. This habitat "supports a ground layer of heath species, mosses and liverworts and often contains a range of distinctive lichens, flowering plants, invertebrates and bird communities".

The presentation was finalized with "Loch Leven Catchment: A case study in collaboration to manage a Special Protection Area".

3. *Nature site management planning (2)* .Mr. Neven Trenc presented the experience in Croatia on Stakeholder consultation in management of Natura 2000 with a water management case study. In specific he presented the following subjects

- Brief information about Natura 2000 (N2K) in Croatia;
- Importance of national stakeholders in management;
- Experiences in regards to forestry and agriculture;
- Overview of the stakeholder involvement process in water management plans as a tool for Natura 2000 management.



The consultation process in preparing N2K was described starting from the first proposal (2008) with consecutive workshops with stakeholders (forestry, agriculture, nature protection, scientist, spatial planning, NGOs), regional workshops and the final second round of workshops with aforementioned stakeholders.

Control of nature protection measures and requirements are generally defined in: Spatial plans (national parks and parks of nature), Management plans for PA, N2K, Water management plans; Forest MP, MP for hunting, etc. Results of appropriate assessment- (measures/requirements) are of specific importance.

The importance of the national government being an important stakeholder is explained by the facts that

- 80% of Croatian forests are state owned and managed by public enterprise (process of restitution ongoing);
- Majority of Croatian rivers i.e. the largest rivers Sava Drava and Danube as well as many smaller rivers include in their whole length in Natura 2000;
- Agricultural plots small with many small owners agro environmental scheme and incentives main element of management – owners need support from state agencies to access the funds.

In the case study on water management the following developments were described:

- Gradual evolvement of cooperation;
- Consultation process for lower level plan serves as a basis for inclusion of nature protection measures in higher level plans;
- Stakeholder involvement with strong national responsibilities and tradition.

In Croatia there are about 21,000 km of streams, rivers, canals and other water bodies, many of which support valuable habitats and habitats of species. Some of the larger Croatian rivers, especially Danube, Sava and Drava, have been heavily constrained by flood protection dikes. Still these rivers, under extreme conditions, represent a serious threat to human property and even life during flood seasons which are quite frequent. In order to plan, implement and coordinate the required tasks a special state water management agency “Croatian waters” (Hrvatske vode, HV) exists, as defined by the Water Act, subordinated to the sector of agriculture.

According to the law, HV is obliged to prepare and implement an annual national “Programme for maintenance works for protection against harmful effects of water”. Traditionally, the relationship between nature protection and the water management sector was burdened by past problems. In many cases seeing each other would be perceived as an obstacle in fulfilment of their tasks, rather than as a partner for meeting common goals.

The gradual change in particular in relation to the EU-accession tasks, led to the formation of a joint working group in 2011 whose aim is to define common steps to be taken in the impact assessment of the Programme not only for that year but also for every subsequent year. The further developments were described leading to the present situation of cooperation and practical recommendations were given.

4. *Nature conservation in Macedonia with specific reference to the Pelister Park.* Mr. Pejo Kirovski, state environmental and nature protection inspector, gave a brief introduction on the inspection system in Macedonia. The staff of the state inspectorate is composed of 25 persons of which 19



State Inspectors for the Environment (SEI), located in Skopje (5), Tetovo (3), Gostivar (2), Bitola (1), Veles (1), Stip (1), Gevgelija (1), Kavadarci (1), Kumanovo (1), Ohrid (1), Strumica (1) and Probistip (1). A number of 11 inspectors are both State Inspector for the environment (SEI) as State Inspector for Nature Protection (SINP). At the country level nature inspectors divided for 6 categories: 1) strict nature reserve, 2) national park, 3) monument of nature, 4) nature parks, 5) protected areas, 6) multi-purpose areas. The categories 1-4 are being declared by law, including the measures to be taken. The categories 5-6 are declared by the State Government. There are 3 national parks in Macedonia: 1) Pelister Park, 3) Mavrovo and 3) Galicica.

Management plans are to be designed for these parks (10 years validity), and are being prepared by experts. The biodiversity should be well known (Mr. Kirovski has been especially involved in the Mavrovo National Park). Cultural heritage is another aspect and the socio-economic elements. A high number of people live in the protected areas. All stakeholders are to be involved for in management planning for which public debates are organised. Experts are involved in the zoning of parks with 4 levels: 1) strictly protected zone; 2) active management zone; 3) maintenance zone and 4) Buffer zone. There are 85 protected areas, occupying 87% of the national territory. The majority of them are national parks – around 4.4 % of the national territory – followed by monuments of nature at around 2.5 % and the Jasen multi-purpose area of around 1.1 % of national territory. A relatively small area of 0.5 % is strict nature reserves, the smallest being around 0.1 % of the Republic.

An annual programme for nature protection is needed for the 3 national parks. The Pelister national Park is characterized by an endemic type of tree (molika, *pinus peuce gris.*), with some other endemic types, specific wildlife and a large number of medicinal plants. The national park is a public domain and is self-funding. The tasks of inspectors is to carry out inspections also with other inspectorates, for example forests in the park are inspected by independent forest inspectors; for grazing different entities are responsible. Other tasks of inspectors include the monitoring of species, import and export and checking of compliance with permits issued by the Ministry (blueberries collection). A discussion was held on specific problems in the region, which include illegal constructions, illegal logging.

5. The first day was finalised with a roundtable, discussing the progress made in nature conservation in various countries. The starting point were the reports made in earlier workshops under RENA and the first workshop under ECRAN (Kopacki Rit). It can be concluded that since the last report little progress has been made in the various countries that are participating in the present workshop. In summary the following can be concluded:

Albania (not updated): In the field of nature protection, parliament enacted a law banning hunting, but hunting continues. Effective protection for designated protected areas still needs to be guaranteed. Illegal activities such as hunting, fishing, logging, natural resources extraction and construction remain frequent in protected areas.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: As regards nature protection, Republika Srpska adopted a law on nature protection advancing towards alignment with the Birds and the Habitats Directives. The country took steps to identify an initial list of 95 potential NATURA 2000 ecological areas that account for approximately 20 % of its territory. Regulations implementing the nature conservation acquis have



been drafted in consultation with the responsible ministries of both Entities and the Brčko District, but remains to be adopted.

Kosovo*: In the area of nature protection, two laws on national parks were adopted, as well as administrative instructions and planning documents. The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning began measures to combat illegal construction activities in the 'Sharri' national park. A special plan on the Bjeshket e Nemuna national park is almost finalised. Activities for the establishment of the Natura 2000 network of protected areas have not started.

Montenegro: In December 2013, parliament amended the law on nature protection, mainly as regards the evaluation of plans, programmes, projects, actions and activities that may have a significant impact on the maintenance and integrity of the ecological network and ecologically significant sites, together with compensatory measures. It still now also includes the essential articles of the Habitat and Birds Directive. The law on national parks has been adopted.

Serbia: As regards nature protection, legislation implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has been updated to include protected species listings. Important seizures of illegally traded endangered species were made. A new law on national parks is in process.

FYR of Macedonia: Alignment with the acquis on nature protection, specifically natural habitats and wild fauna and flora has been delayed. No progress has been made on the identification of future Natura 2000 sites. Management plans for protected areas have been developed and need to be implemented. A red list of species is in preparation.

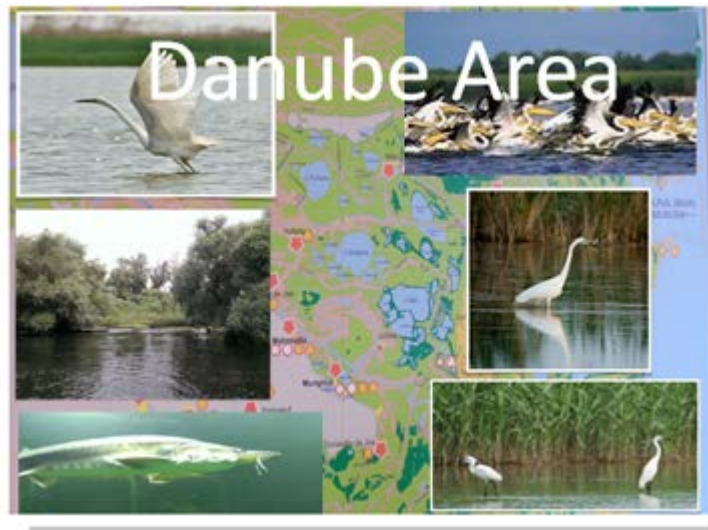
Turkey (not updated): Framework legislation on nature protection, the national biodiversity strategy and action plan still have to be adopted. The draft Nature Protection Law is not in line with the EU acquis. If adopted without implementing legislation, the law would repeal the National Parks Law, causing a legal vacuum. The potential Natura 2000 sites have not yet been identified.

Day 2 – Hotel Millenium Palace, Bitola, 1 October

1. In opening the second day, Mr van der Putte summarized the outcomes of the first day. Mr. van der Putte welcomed Mr. John Visbeen (TAIEX expert) and Mr. Zoran Dimovski (State inspector, Macedonia). The subjects of day 2 were introduced, mentioning that attention will be paid to the "Illegal killing of birds", CITES and to the closely related and cross cutting issues considering Nature legislation i.e. nature protection in permitting and inspection of industrial installations. An important part of day 2 is the presentation of the background and basic information of Pelister Park by Mr. Pece Cvetanovski, the PR officer of the Pelister National Park and the preparation for the site visit to the park, guided by Mr. Syd House.
2. *Illegal killing/poisoning/trade of bird.* Mr John Visbeen as an IMPEL expert introduced his background in Criminal Law as a former police officer in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, and in Administrative Law in the city of Lelystad and the province of Flevoland and the province of Utrecht respectively. At European Level Mr Visbeen is a project/ team leader for IMPEL and has



guided various IMPEL projects including IPPC/IED pig farms, landfill joint inspections and the first “Green Impel Review Initiative” in Romania, concentrating on the Danube Area.



One of the main conclusions of this Green IRI is: Improve effectiveness in whole process of inspection and enforcement – prosecution – verdict. As a result Romania is in the process of changing the regulations to introduce higher fines for the illegal activities in the field of Nature protection. The next IRI will be on migratory birds (Italy, Messina Street). In carrying out the IRIs in nature protection, use is made of the IMPEL documents as a basis with specific reference to the Environmental Inspection Cycle and “Doing the right things” step-by-step guidance book for planning of environmental inspection.

In the field of illegal killing of birds Focus for IMPEL

- Extend the enforcement network
- Exchange of information on crime cases
- Collaboration with NGO's
- Collaboration with network of prosecutors and judges to Improve effectiveness in whole process of inspection/enforcement, prosecution and verdict.

The various connected networks were described and the participants were invited to join “basecamp” a web based IT tool for information exchange in IMPEL.

As an example a number of cases were described that are included in EU-TWIX for exchange of information on wild life crime and illegal logging. An overview was given on recent cases.

23-02-2014 Serbia

- In the early morning hours on 23. 02.2014, the Provincial environmental inspectors, in co-operation with ornithologist of Institute of nature protection of Vojvodina and police officers, seized 82 specimens of passerine birds at an open
- market in Pančevo. The bird
- species belonged to different
- families: *Emberzidae*,
- *Aludidae*, *Fringillidae* and
- *Sylvidae*. The specimens were
- illegally caught in the wild
- and offered for sale at the
- market.



Illegal logging Recent EU related cases

- WHAT IS ILLEGAL LOGGING
- Logging without permission or concession from public forests
- Wood theft or illegal logging from private forests.
- False declaration of volumes, species, values or origins of harvested wood.
- Logging in non-marked or prohibited areas
- Obtaining logging authorisation through bribes
- Killing or burning trees so that they can be logged.
- Logging in prohibited or protected areas such as national parks



Illegal timber remains for sale in EU despite the ban. This was described in a press release of July 31, 2014 stating:

Four years after the adoption of European legislation against illegal wood imports, according to the European Commission assessment that almost half of the Member States lagging behind with its implementation. This exceeds the worst expectations.



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The situation is particularly alarming in Spain, Portugal, Hungary and Malta but also countries like France and Italy score dramatically bad. It is high time that the European Commission rebukes those countries because they are not legally in order.

A further description was given on:

- Collaboration with NGO's and law enforcement agencies (based on experiences in Cyprus, Italy and Spain)
- Collaboration with network of prosecutors and judges to Improve effectiveness in whole process of inspection/enforcement, prosecution and verdict, noting that there are different approaches in enforcement and prosecution in EU member states.

The presentation was finalised with a number of recommendation on the subjects that have been presented:

- Recognize the severe impact of illegal bird trapping, killing and trade to the biological diversity and natural heritage, as well as the intrinsic value of nature and the inextricable link between nature and people;
 - Provide consistent and high-profile political support to the responsible law enforcement agencies;
 - Develop national communication strategies, public awareness campaigns and environmental education projects. (NGO's);
 - Encourage collaboration between NGO's and authorities, especially during season of birds migration;
 - Increase the fines and penalties imposed for illegal and non-selective bird trapping and killing, taking in account the size of the business, the average catch, the ecological impact;
 - Increase the operational capacity and effectiveness of the responsible law enforcement agencies;
 - Improve cooperation and coordination between law enforcement agencies and prosecutors;
 - Better exchange of Information and Intelligence;
 - Improve specific knowledge of law enforcement agents and prosecutors/judges;
 - Capacity building for Green Enforcement Officers;
 - EU wide legislation for Bird foot rings for CB specimens;
 - EU Alert system for illegal Bird and Reptile trade and illegal logging within EU;
 - Cooperation with EUROJUST and European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE) to build awareness;
 - Better cooperation with NGO's.
3. CITES. Mr. Ike van der Putte presented the subject of CITES as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The presentations was based on the materials provided by Mr. Jaap Reijngoud and the general material on the CITES legislation of the CITES secretariat and DG Justice, version November 2010. Subsequently the following subjects were presented
- History of CITES
 - Aims of CITES



- Appendices and Definitions
- CITES Bodies
- CITES and the EU
- National CITES Bodies.

History: In the first half of the last century, people became aware that more and more species of animals and plants were threatened with extinction due to international trade. In the mid 1960's they got organized to fight this impoverishment of nature. CITES as a Convention was signed in 1973 in Washington D.C. and entered into force in 1975. CITES is an international treaty between governments and 180 Parties have signed CITES.


Aim: Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild. Because the trade in wild animals and plants crosses borders between countries, the effort to regulate it requires international cooperation to safeguard certain species from over-exploitation. CITES provides legal framework for the prevention of over exploitation of international commercial trade in endangered species. CITES is legally binding for Parties, but national legislation is required to apply its provisions.

Appendices and definitions: Trade means any

- Export
- Import
- Re-export or
- Introduction from the sea

These movements mean any transport across the border whether the movement takes place for commercial- and for non-commercial purposes. CITES regulates international trade on the basis of a system of permits and certificates. Any CITES specimen in trade requires a CITES document. CITES Parties agreed to categorize endangered species of animals and plants in three different categories according to the level of threat caused by trade: Appendix I, II and III, providing protection for more than 33,000 animal and plant species. The appendices were explained, with Appendix I containing the species threatened with extinction and for which commercial trade in specimens of these species is prohibited.





General Rules



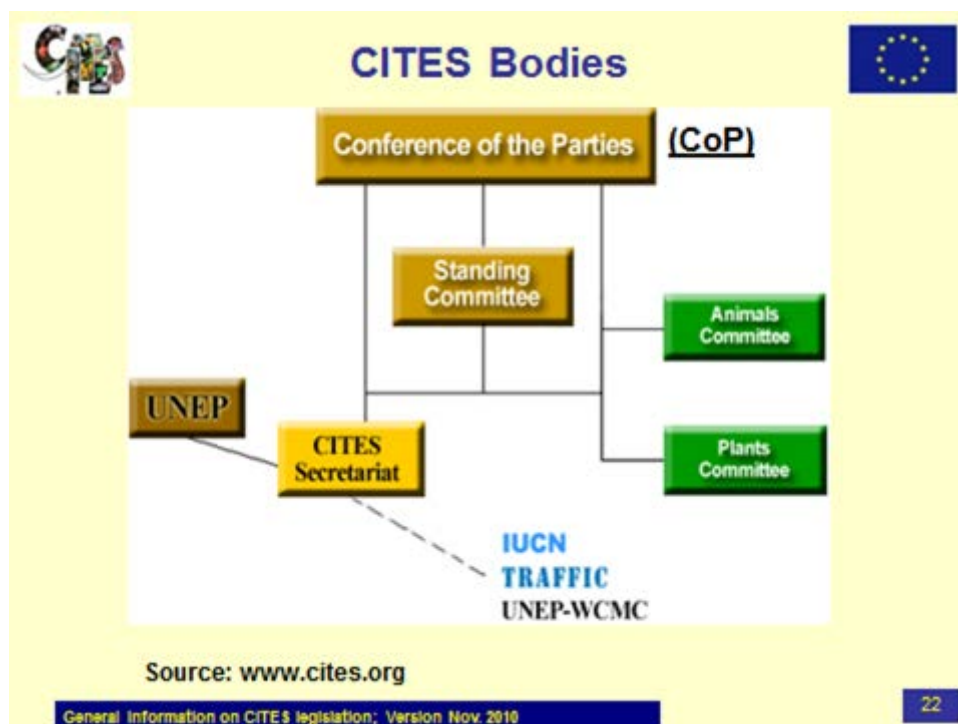
- ▶ **CITES regulates international trade on the basis of a system of permits and certificates**
- ▶ **Any CITES specimen in trade requires a CITES document**




General Information on CITES legislation; Version Nov. 2010

14

CITES Bodies: The various bodies were explained as depicted below.



CITES and the EU: Each EU member state has ratified CITES at a different date and each EU member is a Party to CITES and all EU Member states are obliged to enforce CITES. But the EU itself is not a Party to CITES (Gaborone amendment). The European Union has for CITES its own legislation, publications and bodies. EU implemented CITES in 1984 with regulations, directly applicable to all Member States

At the moment the regulations in force are:



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- Council Regulation EC 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein
- Commission regulation EC 865/2006 laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97.

Beside the before mentioned basic regulations two other rules need to be considered

- Commission Regulation (EC) No. 709/2010 amending Council Regulation No. 338/97; replacing the Annexes A – D to this regulation (Annex A,B and C are more or less translations of Appendices I, II and III of CITES);
- Commission Regulation (EC) No. 997/2010 suspending the importation into the community of specimens of certain species of wild fauna and flora.

In comparing CITES with the EU regulations the following can be seen as a summary:

Considering CITES Permits are required for every transport across a borderline; Import permits are required only for species listed in App. I of CITES; There are no regulations regarding the trade inside of the country.

Considering the EU regulations in general no permit is required for the transport inside EU; Import permits are required for species listed in Ann. A and B; There are strict regulations regarding the internal EU trade.

National CITES Bodies: Every Member State needs to have a:

- Management Authority
- Scientific Authority
- Enforcement Agencies

The above mentioned authorities need to be notified to the CITES-Secretariat and are published on the CITES website www.cites.org.

In National implementation the general rule is that:

The current EU-Regulations shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States. Some Articles need however to be implemented into domestic legislation:

- Art. 12 Designation of ports of import and export;
- Art. 13 Designation of Management and Scientific Authorities;
- Art. 16 Sanctions.

The presentation of Mr. van der Putte was finalised with the overview of activities for a country before and after EU accession (Croatia).



LESSONS LEARNED ref. Croatia	
BEFORE EU	AS EU MS
„third country“- borders	MS with the wide and long territorial border to „third countries“ but no borders to MS
Large number of import, export and re-export CITES permits	Reduction of the number of CITES permits
No documents for CITES I (Annex A)	Large number of EU Certificates for Annex A specimens (proof of legal acquisition, commercial activities or movement of live specimens)
No documents for strictly protected native species	Large number of certificates for strictly protected native species

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4. *Nature protection in permitting and inspection of industrial installations.* Mrs. Gisela Holzgraefe introduced the subject with specific reference to the IED and implementation of Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive.

The latter article defines further rules concerning industrial activities:

A project likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site – either individually or in combination with other projects – shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. The four stages of the procedure are:

- 1) Screening: Identification of likely impacts upon Natura 2000 site of a project (alone or in combination with other projects or plans). Are the impacts likely to be significant?
- 2) Appropriate Assessment (AA): Impact of the project on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site (alone or in combination with other pp) with respect to the site’s structure and conservation objectives. Adverse impacts: assessment of mitigation measures;
- 3) Assessment of alternative solutions: Examination of alternative ways that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site;
- 4) Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain – assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of IROPI (Imperative reasons of overriding public interest) the project should proceed.

After the introduction the Objectives of the IMPEL Project 2015 “Nature protection in permitting and inspection of industrial installations - implementation of Article 6 (3) HD” was described and included:

Evaluation of the guidance document “Wind energy developments and Natura 2000”.European Commission, October 2010.

Development of a sector specific guidance document on Article 6(3) HD in permitting of farm projects (pigs and poultry) with at least:

- definition of the project and project boundaries;
- development of a screening list;
- discussion on problem of salami slicing.

In the evaluation of the guidance document (1) various proposals have been made with a focus on applicability and usefulness for permit writers and inspectors.

In the sector specific guidance document (2) a Draft Guidance on „Pig and Poultry Farms and Natura 2000“ has been made. The Interlink between Art 6 (3) HD, EIAD and SEAD was discussed concluding that:

- For projects needing an EIA/SEA and AA at the same time AA may be part of the EIA/SEA. But SEA and EIA cannot substitute the AA. In all cases the AA must be clearly identifiable, either within the EIA/SEA report or in a separate report, so that its conclusions can be distinguished from those of the overall impact assessment.
- For small projects a screening / an AA has to be carried out. In some Member States, the national law stipulates that if an AA has to be carried out for a project, it will automatically be covered by the EIA Directive and it shall be at least screened.

Furthermore the following subjects were discussed: “Salami slicing”, potential impacts of IRPP (intensive rearing of poultry and pigs) and farms on NATURA 2000 and Wildlife. The presentation was finalised by describing the current state of the project.

5. Presentation of the background and basic information of Pelister Park by Mr. Pece Cvetanovski, the PR officer of the Pelister National Park and the preparation for the site visit to the park, guided by Mr. Syd House. Using the information from the presentation, the participants were provided with a task to carry out a field exercise on day 3 (site visit and evaluation). The participants were divided into four groups, each composed of a mix of different country representatives, each with a rapporteur and guided by one of the trainers as facilitators in the discussions. The participants were provided with the following information:



TAIEX/ECRAN Workshop: Friday 2 October 2015

Field Exercise: Pelister National Park

The purpose of this exercise is

- to encourage you to think further about the information provided by the various presentations ;
- to apply good practice to a practical problem by using the information learned;
- to encourage you to work together in identifying potential solutions to the challenges you are faced with.

Your remit

The NP Plan for Pelister National Park has to be renewed.

You have been seconded to the management team drafting the new NP Plan. You are the recognised expert advising the management team on what is required of them to ensure the Management Plan complies with international standards of conservation and habitat protection using the EU Natura 2000 network and associated Habitat Directives as your standard. You also have a lot of experience in negotiating and reconciling complex land management situations with competing economic, environmental and social objectives and in dealing with the stakeholders representing each of these interests

Questions

1. Describe what content and information you would wish to see included in the Management Plan (and check to see if you have that information available)?
2. Who would you task with preparing the Plan and how would you go about that preparation?
3. Who are the key stakeholders with an interest in the National Park likely to be? How would you deal with them in drafting the revised Plan? Describe what techniques you would use to engage with the various stakeholders & how you would identify the relative importance of each stakeholder (individual and/or group)?
4. Which habitats and species in Pelister NP have you identified as being under threat? Can you clarify which stakeholders you need to engage to help mitigate each threat?
5. Once the Plan has been agreed, how would you ensure that the actions proposed have been implemented and the objectives for the National Park achieved?
6. From your experience elsewhere, how would you encourage local communities and residents within the Park to take advantage of the international National Park designation to help protect and enhance their local communities and standard of living? What sort of actions would you recommend they pursue?

The answers provided by each team to each question will be scored on the following lines:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| – A – Very good effort | 3 points |
| – B – good attempt | 2 points |
| – C – made an effort but missed some key points | 1 point |



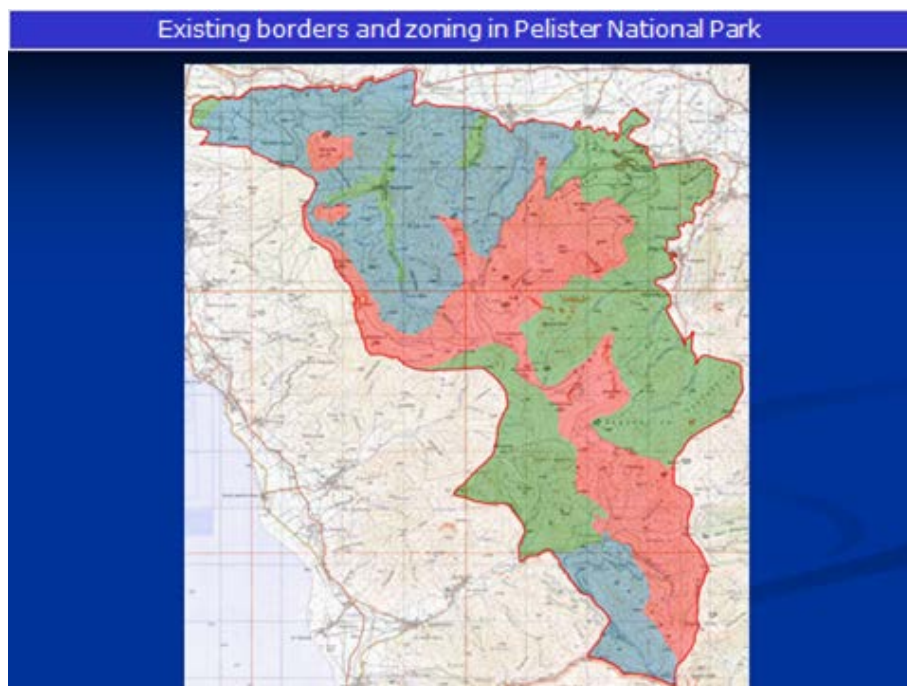
Day 3 – Pelister National Park, 2 October

Based on the information of Pelister Park by Mr. Pece Cvetanovski the following summary can be given.

Pelister National Park is located in the south-western part of the Republic of Macedonia, encompassing an area of 17.150 ha on the northern side of the Baba massif at altitudes between 900 and 2601m.

The regional road Bitola-Resen and the Bigla Mountain are to the north of the Park and the border with Greece, to the south.

To the east of the Park are the Pelagonide valley and the city of Bitola and to the west are the Prespa valley and the city of Resen.



Management zones are defined and recognizable units used to control the activities in different parts of the national parks. Following the Spatial Plan for Pelister National Park there are four zones in the Park:

- Zone of strict protection
- Administrative managing zone
- Sustainable managing zone
- Protected belt zone

Pelister was declared a National Park in 1948. Just one village is located within the Park borders – Malovishta - with 98 permanent inhabitants and there are several villages in the Park vicinity (app. 1 km distance). Approximately 10,000 people inhabit the area around the Park.

The National Park Directorate registered as a Public Institution is responsible for the management of Pelister National Park with:

- 21 employees
- Ranger service (5 full-time rangers)
- Seasonal work force (13-18)
- Volunteers (5 part time)

Funding mechanism

Due to the lack of state financial support the Park is developing different mechanisms for financing

- Non timber forest products selling
 - Molika cones, pines and seeds
 - Blueberries, Juniper berries, Medicinal plants and Mushrooms
- System for licensing based on strategy for sustainable collection
 - First model species is blueberries
- Introducing entrance fees and ecological taxes (in procedure)



Other self-financing initiatives:

- Eco tourism – support to local communities in providing tourism services
- Development of a regional label together with local NGO's and business sector as a tool for promoting regional products, tourist offers and services.
- Enhancing the services for the Park visitors
 - Through development of Environmental education
 - Visiting the information centre



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- Development of specific services (new trails)

Human use

- Past use
 - Livestock breeding has traditionally been the main economic activity of the communities of Malovishta and the villages neighbouring the Park (e.g. Magarevo, Trnovo, Capari, Nizsepole, Dihovo, Kazsani and Rotino)
- Current use
 - Recreation and tourism
 - Environmental education
 - Scientific research
 - Collection of medicinal plants and other non-timber forest products
 - Forestry
 - Water resources use
 - Agriculture



The Molika Pines, brown bear, Balkan lynx and adder

SPECIAL VALUES OF PELISTER NATIONAL PARK

Key values

- The forests, molika (pinus peuce gris.) as a typical and most important sample of this habitat type;
- The grass communities, alpine graze land in particular;
- Fresh-water ecosystems;
- The Bruckenthalia heaths;
- The species which are threatened globally or in Europe;
- The species that are considered to be rare and threatened in Macedonia;
- Endemic plants and animals;

- Non-timber forest products;
- The animals which are easily recognized and highly attractive to the local people and the visitors.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT DIRECTIONS

Vision for the future of Pelister National Park is focused on:

- Protection of the biodiversity, landscape and the cultural heritage for the future generations;
- Various possibilities for experiencing the beauties of the Park for the visitors (wide range of activities);
- Continuous collaboration with the local communities for economic and social development;
- Increased scientific research activities and improved capacities of the National Park Directorate.

Another element of importance is the conservation of natural and cultural heritage. There is a long history of human activities in the area (artefacts from over 4,000 years).

- Archaeological findings from the Roman and Medieval period.
- Over 40 churches and monasteries in and around the Park (oldest one from the 12th century).
- World War I remains (Thessalonica front).
- Villages with typical architecture and traditional life style.

Other objectives are defined as:

- 1) Conservation of geological heritage and biological diversity;
- 2) Protection of cultural heritage;
- 3) Landscape Protection.



Albanian Lily



Thyme

Guided by Mr. Pece Cvetanovski a walking tour through the Park was made with a visit to the visitors' centre where further information was provided to the participants.

At the return to Hotel Millenium Palace, Bitola the various groups discussed the various issues and reported on the outcomes based on the field exercise.

Due to the limited time the four groups reported one by one, each on one of the questions of the field exercise consecutively receiving comments from the other participants.

In summary it can be concluded that the following was needed

- 1) on content and information of the Management Plan
 - map and socio-economic data of the protected area
 - inventory of natural assets and cultural heritage
 - a developed vision
 - protection targets
 - a defined action plan (with cost estimations/allocations/sources)
 - monitoring and inspection of the plan
- 2) on preparing the plan
 - using a participatory approach with the Park ranger in the lead assisted by expert teams from institutions specialized in the field of nature, but also assisted by a communication expert
- 3) on key stakeholders
 - the local key stakeholders (owners, municipality, people living in and around the park) but also the national stakeholders as it is a national park
 - various techniques were mentioned and included the use of workshops, websites, brochures local TV, working in groups was advocated; for the relative importance a discussion was made on the divergence of persons with high interest/low political influence and vice versa.
- 4) on threatened species
 - in the Park no species were considered to be under immediate threat but for this purpose it mentioned that the specialised institutions should do research for assessing the endangered species
- 5) on ensuring the actions proposed
 - monitoring and inspection is crucial with reporting (annual report, publications)
- 6) on local communities and residents
 - to engage local communities and residents, activities should be developed that are also of benefit to local people; various proposals were made including, branding of products; tourist and sports development, bird watching, eco-tourism, subsidies for the local population in various supporting activities; infrastructural development (taps, toilets etc.)



The workshop was closed with various participants mentioning that a follow-up workshop under ECRAN was needed.



V. Evaluation

Statistical information

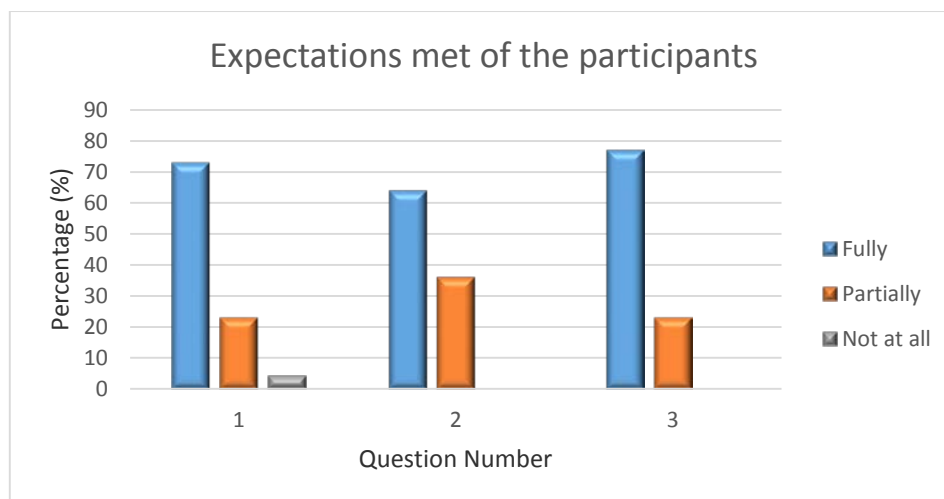
1.1	Workshop Session	Regional capacity building on compliance with environmental legislation - Nature Inspection 30 September – 02 October 2015, Bitola
1.2	Facilitators name	As per agenda
1.3	Name and Surname of Participants (evaluators) optional	As per participants' list

Your Expectations

Please indicate to what extent specific expectations were met, or not met:

My Expectations	My expectations were met		
	Fully	Partially	Not at all
1. Improved knowledge base and understanding of the required legal and institutional requirements with compliance, and enforcement aspects in cross border nature protection areas at key staff of the inspection bodies;	I (73%)	 (23%)	I (4%)
2. Strengthened regional network of SEE professionals and experts in nature protection areas with its compliance and enforcement aspects.	 (64%)	 (36%)	
3. Improved knowledge of a number of related and cross-cutting issues	II (77%)	 (23%)	

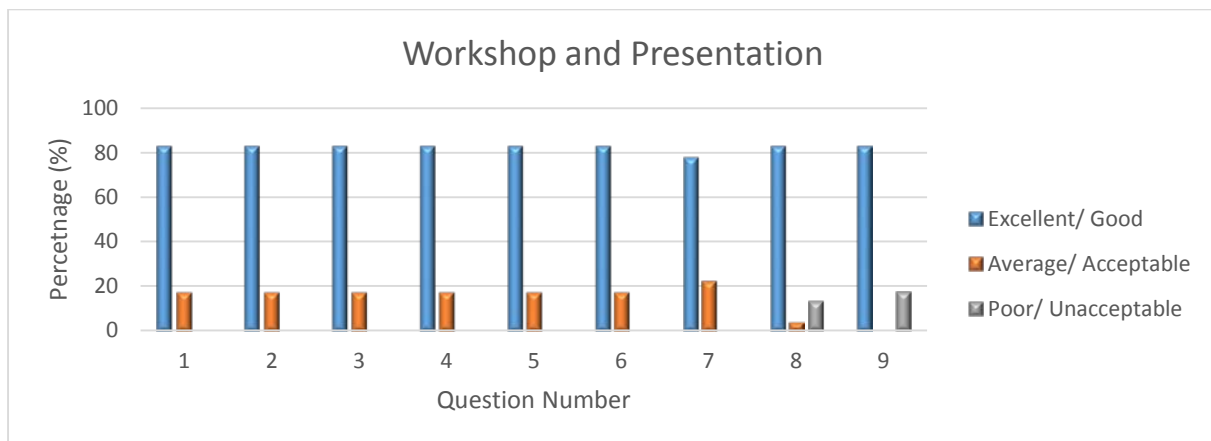




Workshop and Presentation

Please rate the following statements in respect of this training module:

Aspect of Workshop	Excellent	Good	Average	Acceptable	Poor	Unacceptable
1. The workshop achieved the objectives set	IIII (18%)	IIII II (65%)	I (4%)	III (13%)		
2. The quality of the workshop was of a high standard	IIII II (57%)	IIII I (26%)	I (4%)	III (13%)		
3. The content of the workshop was well suited to my level of understanding and experience	IIII II (52%)	IIII II (31%)	I (4%)	III (13%)		
4. The practical work was relevant and informative	IIII II (48%)	IIII III (35%)	III (13%)	I (4%)		
5. The workshop was interactive	IIII II (48%)	IIII III (35%)	II (8.5%)	II (8.5%)		
6. Facilitators were well prepared and knowledgeable on the subject matter	IIII II (52%)	IIII II (31%)	II (8.5%)	II (8.5%)		
7. The duration of this workshop was neither too long nor too short	IIII II (56%)	IIII (22%)	IIII (22%)			
8. The logistical arrangements (venue, refreshments, equipment) were satisfactory	IIII II (65%)	IIII (18%)		I (4%)		III (13%)
9. Attending this workshop was time well spent	IIII II (48%)	IIII III (35%)			IIII (17%)	



Comments and suggestions

I have the following comment and/or suggestions in addition to questions already answered:

Workshop Sessions:

- Interesting workshop for my job;
- Organisation for site visit is to be improved. Road was unexpectedly closed so transport back to the hotel had to be re-arranged;

Facilitators:

- Experienced;
- Very good;
- Provide Experiences for work in future

Workshop level and content:

- Satisfied;
 - In general everything was ok
-

ANNEX I – Agenda

Day 1 : Wednesday, 30 September 2015

Topic: Nature Inspection, Management and Implementation Chair: Ike van der Putte Co-Chair: Mr Darko Blinkov Venue: Bitola, Pelister Parc				
Start	Finish	Topic	Speaker	Sub topic/Content
08:30	09:00	Registration		
09:00	09:15	Opening	Mr Darko Blinkov, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, ECENA coordinator Macedonia Mr. Ike van der Putte ECRAN – ECENA Coordinator	Welcome, introduction of trainers, introduction of participants
09:15	10:00	Introduction	Mr. Ike van der Putte, ECRAN ECENA Coordinator	Explanation of the training programme, information on ECRAN and defined ECENA activities. Introductions to the EU legislation on nature and closely related/cross cutting issues covered in the programme
10:00	10:45	Nature site management planning, General requirements and practical experience (part 1)	Mr. Syd House - Conservator Perth & Argyll Conservancy Forestry Commission Scotland, TAIEX Expert	Introduction and Case descriptions
10:45	11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00	12:30	Nature site	Mr Neven Trenc	“How management planning can



		management planning, General requirements and practical experience (part 2)	TAIEX expert Croatia	contribute to a better cooperation between administration and stakeholders and thus support inspection and compliance. (experience Croatia) “Managing Natura 2000 sites - how the cooperative and voluntary approach can complement rules and regulations.”
12:30	13:30	Lunch Break		
13:30	15:00	Nature conservation in Macedonia with specific reference to Pelister National Parc	Host country TBD	During this session the general developments in Nature Conservation in Macedonia is described and will also make specific reference to Pelister National Park: the site, its developments, problems and solutions and future requirements
15:00	15:15	Coffee Break		
15:15	16:30	Round table	All participants	Brief reports on progress made in nature conservation in the ECRAN countries as a follow up of the brief assessments made in earlier workshops including the one in Kopacki Rit and the RENA workshops in Lake Ohrid and Lake Skodra
16:30	17:00	Open discussion	Mr Ike van der Putte and trainers	On lesson learned from this and previous trainings, This session is proposed to offer the opportunity for detailed questions and discussions.
17:00	17:15	Closure		

Day 2 : Thursday, 1 October 2015

Topic: Nature Inspection, Management and Implementation

Chair: Ike van der Putte

Co-Chair: Mr Darko Blinkov

Venue: Bitola, Pelister Parc

Start	Finish	Topic	Speaker	Sub topic/Content
08:30	09:00	Registration		
09:00	09:30	Word of welcome and briefing	Mr. Ike van der Putte,	Welcome, introduction of trainers, introduction of participants
09:30	10:45	Illegal killing/poisoning of birds	Mr John Visbeen (Provincial Authority Utrecht, the Netherlands/IMPEL	Description of the outcome of the IMPEL project with recommendations.
10:45	11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00	12:30	CITES	Mr. Ike van der Putte	Description of the CITES Convention with its developments in implementation in the EU.
12:30	13:30	Lunch Break		
13:30	15:00	Nature protection in permitting and inspection of industrial installations	Ms. Gisela Holzgraefe Ministry of Energy Transition, Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas, Germany, TAIEX Expert	Description and outcomes of IMPEL Activities and projects on Nature protection in permitting and inspection of industrial installations, with lessons learned and further steps
15:00	15:15	Coffee Break		
15:15	16:45	Preparation Site visit	Mr Ike van der Putte and trainers	Defining questions/tasks of subgroups
17:00	17:15	Closure		



Day 3 : Friday, 2 October 2015

Site visit Pelister Nature Park				
Start	Finish	Topic	Speaker	Sub topic/Content
08:00	09:00	<i>Transport from the hotel to the site</i>		
09:00	09:30	Word of welcome and briefing	Host authority,	Welcome, introduction of trainers, introduction of participants
09:30	13:00	Site visit	Trainers	Divide into 4-5 groups with a facilitator, chairman and reporter each. Chairman has allocated specific responsibilities to each member of the group. Discussion of inspection and management issues with regional/local guides and/or sites managers, based on a specific case/questions presented by the trainers
13:00	14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14:00	15:00	<i>Return to the meeting room</i>		
15:00	15:45	Site visit report preparation in groups	All participants	
15:45	16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
16:00	17:00	Presentation of reports by members of the group	All participants	Conclusions of site visit
17:00		Closure		



ANNEX II – Participants

First Name	Family Name	Institution Name	Country	Email
Ana	Soldo	Vjetrenica Public Company	Bosnia and Herzegovina	info@vjetrenica.ba
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ANNEX III – Presentations (under separate cover)

Presentations can be downloaded from:

http://www.ecranetwork.org/Files/Workshop_Presentations,_Nature_Inspection_Macedonia,_September_2015.zip



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