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Protected Area Networks – Cornerstone of Development Dinner Event

Madrid Convention Centre
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Convened by the CBD Secretariat and WWF, this event looked at some significant progress and corresponding challenges in establishing protected area networks in line with CBD targets and identified next steps to ensure that protected area networks become the cornerstone for development.

Four round-table discussions looked at different themes related to improving linkages between protected areas and development and strengthening implementation of the CBD programme of work on protected areas. Discussions included linking protected areas and climate change and cross-sectoral cooperation. Two tables looked at progress and next steps in implementing the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the Carpathian and Dinaric Arc ecoregions.

Participants included CBD Focal Points from Pan-European countries, as well as the European Commission, IUCN-WCPA, LifeWeb Initiative, OECD, REC, UNEP, and WWF.



Improving Linkages between Protected Areas and Development

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Participants concluded that governments, NGOs and multi-lateral organisations should work together to:

- **Promote the need for cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity and protected areas through the UN General Assembly Heads of State session ensuring concrete recommendations from preparatory sessions such as the CBD Working Group on Review of Implementation as well as the Bilagio and OECD meetings**
- **Ensure poverty and climate change feature strongly in the CBD post-2010 Strategic Plan and**
- **prepare policy-related case studies to promote agreement on milestones as well as 2020 targets**
- **Demonstrate ecosystem service benefits for society in climate change adaptation through case studies based on historical evidence with LifeWeb support**
- **Engage influential countries in the development of these case studies**
- **Ensure closer linkages between the three Rio conventions**

Cross-sectoral cooperation

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The roundtable concluded that the following actions should be taken to improve cross-sectoral cooperation:

- **Use the UN General Assembly and other international fora to promote:**
 - a) **the need to broaden the measurement of GDP to incorporate natural capital, and**
 - b) **the development of incentives for other sectors to participate in biodiversity conservation**
- **Develop communications materials that identify the risk and consequences of biodiversity loss for relevant sectors of government and business as well as society at large. The materials should use**
- **concrete figures and be clear and easy to communicate to relevant audiences**
- **Improve communication with other sectors of government to demonstrate how biodiversity/protected areas can help them meet their objectives by linking better to their activities and events**
- **Develop more case studies from business, government and NGOs on how cross-sectoral integration is working on the ground**



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Carpathian Ecoregion

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Discussions focused on recent contributions and next steps in implementing the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the region. The important role of the Carpathian Convention and especially the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) was highlighted as well as the need for cross-sectoral integration and securing sustainable finance for protected area management.

The CNPA, established under the Carpathian Convention, which held its first Conference in 2008 is supporting protected area managers in the region. Cooperation with the Alpine Network of Protected Areas is providing additional support.

Significant progress has been made in protected area designation, mainly due to the implementation of EU policies in Slovakia, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania. Capacity building activities are aiming to increase efficient management of protected areas.

- **Practical guidelines on participatory management as well as the valuation of goods and benefits of PAs and integration of PA values and objectives in cross-sectoral planning should be developed for the region. Case studies and lessons learned in relevant projects implemented in the Carpathians should be better promoted and used to increase efficiency of protected area management**
- **The Carpathian countries should join forces to influence future EU funding policies for better financial allocation for protected areas and promote regional funding that would encourage cross-border cooperation and ecoregion-level conservation in Carpathians**
- **Development of a ‘Carpathian Space’ similar to the ‘Alpine Space’ would help to promote sustainable development in the region**

Conclusions

- **National inter-sectoral working groups should be established to promote better understanding of the importance of protected areas and integrate conservation and sustainable use principles into sectoral policies. Case studies on cross-sectoral integration should be developed to assist this process**
- **CNPA is an effective mechanism for regional cooperation as well as a functional platform for experience exchange and capacity building for protected area management and should be supported by donors**



At the Madrid event, Ivor Ivanenko, Deputy Head of Ukraine's State Agency for Protected Areas, announced the creation of 31 new protected areas in 2009 covering more than 328,000ha as part of Ukraine's implementation of the CBD



Shepherd, Gradistea Muncelului Cioclovina Nature Park, Romania

Dinaric Arc Ecoregion

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The group looked at progress and next steps in implementing the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas especially through the 'Big Win Initiative' signed by six ministers at CBD COP 9 in 2008. The Big Win is supported by members of the Dinaric Arc Initiative (Council of Europe, ECNC, EuroNatur, FAO, IUCN, REC, SNV, UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP, WWF). Within 18 months, up to 50% of the commitments made under the initiative have been achieved and 30% are underway.

Such initiatives help to catalyse action by promoting cooperation and alignment between countries and identifying clear regional priorities for development support. The Big Win Initiative enabled many activities on the ground such as projects on transboundary collaboration, capacity building on Natura 2000 for civil sector and governments, and the evaluation of management effectiveness in all protected areas in the region.

The discussion allowed the exchange of lessons learned from other European countries and lead to several lessons learned and recommendations:

- **Political support needs to be maintained to ensure implementation of commitments, both technical and high-level officials should be equally involved**
- **Civil society organizations should be brought into the process based on experience in Finland, Germany and Slovenia**
- **Linking CBD targets to EU Nature Directive is essential to ensuring political support**
- **Natura 2000/PoWPA implementation should be linked to the EU Water Framework Directive to promote cross-sectoral integration**
- **Transboundary conservation initiatives help build better relations between countries**

Participants also offered specific follow-up in the management of water and marine protected areas as well as tools for assessing the direct financial benefits to land owners within Natura 2000 sites



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