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FACTSHEET

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# NATURA 2000 IN SERBIA AND IN MONTENEGRO

**During 3.5 years of the project 2 NGO networks that support Natura 2000 have been established and recognised by authorities; 200 nature conservationists have taken part in expert exchanges**

Full project name:  
Strengthening the Capacity of Governments and the Civil Sector in Serbia & in Montenegro to Adapt to EU Nature Protection Aquis

Project area:  
Serbia, Montenegro

Project duration:  
2009-2012

## The Dinaric Arc region is a hotspot of European biodiversity.

The extension of the Natura 2000 ecological network to central and eastern Europe is therefore extremely important for achieving EU policy objectives related to biodiversity. In the past three and a half years significant improvements have been reached in many aspects of nature conservation.

### The 4 main objectives of the project have been successfully fulfilled:

## Montenegrin institutions established a functional Natura 2000 database with mapped, updated and field-verified data by 2012.

Technical support was given to the Montenegrin Government: EU reference lists for species and habitats were prepared, a catalogue of Natura 2000 habitats in Montenegro was prepared, the guidelines for field mapping for flora and fauna were prepared and cartographers were trained; species and habitats distribution maps were prepared; a Biodiversity Information System was set up.



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## The Non-governmental sector in Serbia and in Montenegro was trained, empowered and organized to carry out its role in nature-related EU accession processes.

A huge network of environmental NGOs support Natura 2000 in Serbia and in Montenegro: 55 NGO members in Serbia and 37 in Montenegro are linked with selected NGOs in BiH, Croatia and Albania. A series of training courses with NGO representatives have given great results - such as advocacy plans and a link to Brussels institutions. Representatives of the NGO Natura 2000 Network Resource Center of Serbia have been appointed as full members of the Working Group and also the Council for the establishment of the Natura 2000 network in the Republic of Serbia.

## Key government sectors in Serbia and in Montenegro understand EU conservation policy, have established communications and have begun integrating EU nature conservation requirements into policy making.

Due to the expert exchange, in which almost 200 participants took part, key governmental sectors in Montenegro and in Serbia are now acquainted with EU conservation policy.

## National legislative and international funding frameworks support sustainable development and nature conservation in Serbia and in Montenegro.

The important influence of NGOs in Serbia was recognised in the preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), in the revision and preparation of amendments for the Nature Protection Act and the preparation of the new Regulation on ecological networks. NGOs in Montenegro were active in the revision of nature protection legislation (Nature Protection Act, Ordinance on Nature Impact Assessment, and budget planning for nature conservation).

Both NGO networks and governmental institutions have learned how to participate in pre-accession funding planning and designation of funding priorities.

Strengthening the Capacity of Governments and the Civil Sector in Serbia & in Montenegro to Adapt to EU Nature Protection Aquis has resulted in an EU IPA funded project and several new project proposals.

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Project in numbers:

- Around 200 people have taken part in 6 expert exchanges
- 2 NGO networks have been formed: Natura 2000 Resource Center of Serbia and Natura 2000 Infocenter of Montenegro
- 92 NGOs are members of these networks
- training courses have been held
- More than 200 articles on biodiversity and Natura 2000 have been written for the blog Natura 2000 in the Western Balkans. [ngonatura2000.blogspot.com](http://ngonatura2000.blogspot.com) is visited by around 5,000 people from 35 countries
- 6 editions of Natura 2000 in the Western Balkans e-newsletter were sent to more than 400 addresses
- 65 habitat types, 78 animal and 33 plant species exist for which Natura 2000 in Montenegro should be established

More data about the project:  
[http://croatia.panda.org/dinarski\\_huk/natura\\_2000\\_u\\_srbiji\\_i\\_u\\_crnoj\\_gori/](http://croatia.panda.org/dinarski_huk/natura_2000_u_srbiji_i_u_crnoj_gori/)

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