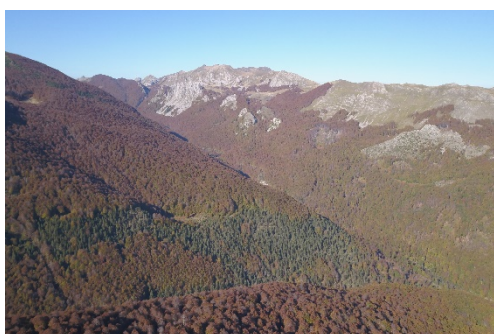


PROJECT INFORMATION

Enhancing Connectivity at the Balkan Green Belt in Albania and North Macedonia



Mountain view in Jablanica-
Shebenik

Source: Xhemal Xherri

Background

The Balkan Green Belt (BGB) is essential for the development of Green Infrastructure (GI) at the EU-level. Nevertheless, intensification of land use and infrastructure development put pressure on the habitats along the BGB and their connectivity. Spatial and land use planning are important tools to balance different land uses and interests. In addition, spatial planning enables the implementation and long-term safeguarding of GI. However, the concept of GI has been largely unknown among decision-makers responsible for landscape planning decisions in the region.

Project details

The overarching objective of the project is a developed BGB with a secure connectivity as part of the GI also outside protected areas. For this it is necessary to improve legislation and implementation of land use planning along the BGB, with a focus on Albania and North Macedonia.

Based on the given EU framework, the project team will identify gaps and needs for adaptation of the national legal frameworks. Based on this the project team develops recommendations for improving the respective national legal frameworks and their implementation. Training courses support capacity building in the relevant ministries, their subordinate authorities and in the cross-border pilot region Jablanica-Shebenik. National project steering groups will ensure technical coordination with decision-makers of both countries. In the pilot region Jablanica-Shebenik the project elaborates recommendations for the improvement of concrete planning processes on the municipality level. The intensive exchange of information between the departments responsible for spatial planning prepares the harmonization of national procedures in the pilot region.

Updated: December 2021

Project countries: Albania, North Macedonia

Duration: 12/2021 – 11/2023

Beneficiaries: Ministries and subordinated authorities, agencies, municipalities, civil society, NGOs

Implementing organisations:

EuroNatur (Germany), Macedonian Eco-logical Society (North Macedonia), Preservation and Protection of the Natural Environment (Albania)

Project number: 168250

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Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

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