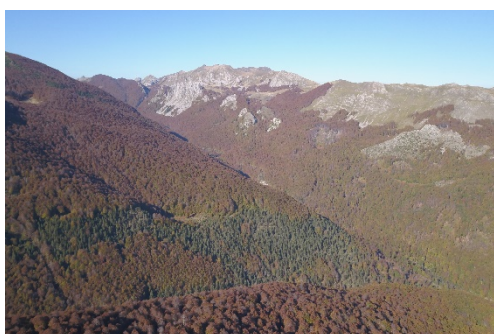


PROJECT INFORMATION

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 regional decision-makers responsible for landscape planning decisions.

Project details

The overarching objective of the project was 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 identified gaps and needs for adaptation of the national legal frameworks. The project team then derived recommendations for improving the respective national legal frameworks and their implementation. Training courses supported capacity building in the relevant ministries, their subordinate authorities and in the cross-border pilot region Jablanica-Shebenik. National project steering groups ensured technical coordination with decision-makers of both countries. The team analysed the spatial planning procedures and documents in the pilot region and gave recommendations for incorporating GI and for transboundary cooperation.

A new Law on Spatial Planning was drafted in North Macedonia. This law includes the concept of GI for the first time and secures its development and implementation in the country.

Updated: July 2024

Project countries: Albania, North Macedonia

Duration: 12/2021 – 07/2024

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

Implementing organisations:

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

Project number: 168250

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