



euRONATUR
Annual report 2016

Bild: Kerstin Sauer



Dear Friends of EuroNatur,

Once the carrying capacities of our ecosystems have been exceeded, it gets pretty uncomfortable for us humans too. Everything is connected: Without bees and without living soils there won't be enough food; intact peatlands are not just habitats for rare and highly specialized species but they also sequester carbon and stabilize the climate, just like forests do, and forests are not only the green lungs of our planet but also influence climate and weather. These are just some examples of an endless series of interconnections.

A growth-oriented economic system either ignores carrying capacities or tries to overcome them by technical means – an attempt that is often doomed to fail. Ecosystem services are taken for granted until nature fails to deliver. When the natural resource base on which life depends is getting destroyed, it is not due to a lack of knowledge as to these

interconnections but rather a lack of political will to pave the way towards prudent and sustainable resource use. Will it really take a disaster for policymakers to wake up?

It is encouraging to see that the European Union and its member states have set ambitious goals for nature conservation and environmental protection. However, sadly even studies commissioned by the EU Commission itself have shown that all too often goals is all they are ever going to be. It is already apparent that the targets set out in the 2020 Biodiversity Strategy are no more than paper tigers, which is due to a whole range of adverse developments. EuroNatur intervenes, uncovers irregularities and takes this information to both the public and the EU institutions. EuroNatur's fight for Europe's natural heritage is characterized by perseverance, be that in relation to ecologically compatible agriculture or in the fight for the Romanian virgin forests, the Balkan rivers, and migratory birds in the Balkans. Once again, you will find numerous examples in our 2016 Activity Report that show that our perseverance pays off.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to our donors, funders and sponsors. We would not be able to do our work without you. An additional pillar of our work is the steadily growing network of competent and trustworthy partners in conservation. On the following pages we are highlighting some of what we have achieved together in 2016.

I trust that this report will make interesting reading.
Yours sincerely,

Christel Schroeder
President of EuroNatur

Photo: Christian Snelow - River Benca



EuroNatur – Connecting nature and people

The growth-oriented way we lead our lives and run our economies at this point in history is characterized by ruthless exploitation of natural resources and has resulted in the pervasive destruction of nature as well as drastic climate change. People all around the world are feeling the effects.

Nature is the natural resource base on which all humans depend. Species and habitat diversity are prerequisites of a quality environment. Our aim is a European continent that hosts free-flowing rivers, pristine forests, diverse cultural landscapes as well as sufficient space for wild animals and migrating birds within these and other ecosystems.

We are committed to connecting people and nature in a peaceful Europe – beyond national borders. Our efforts for the protection of plants, animals and habitats are trans-boundary in nature; we strengthen local conservation organizations and create international networks between them. Together with our Europe-wide partner network we create solutions that allow humans to live and work in harmony with nature.



Photo: Katharina Grund - River bank of Viosa



A foundation to protect Europe's nature

EuroNatur is a non-profit foundation established in 1987 by Friends of the Earth Germany (Bund für Umwelt- und Naturschutz Deutschland, BUND), the German Federation for Nature Conservation (Naturschutzbund Deutschland, NABU) and German Environmental Aid (Deutsche Umwelthilfe, DUH). It is headquartered in Radolfzell. EuroNatur is legally, organizationally and financially independent, autonomous and non-partisan. A foundation having legal personality (rechtsfähige Stiftung) such as EuroNatur differs from a registered voluntary association (Verein) in that it has no membership base. The latest exemption notice (Freistellungsbescheid) was issued by the tax authority in Singen on December 27, 2016. EuroNatur is a member of, amongst others, the following organizations: European Green Belt Association, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), European Habitats Forum, German League for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection (DNR), Association of German Foundations, AgrarBündnis e.V., Europarc, and Wetlands International – European Association.

The current Statutes can be downloaded at www.euronatur.org/statutes

Presiding Committee provides strategic orientation

New members of the Presiding Committee are proposed by existing members and elected to the Committee by majority vote. The President is elected from among the members of the Presiding Committee. In 2016, EuroNatur's Presiding Committee had six voting members and one non-voting member, all of whom served in a voluntary capacity. Their duties include determining the organization's strategic orientation, approving annual budgets, and approving the annual accounts. The Presiding Committee oversees the work of the Executive Director and the Director for Nature Conservation Policy with a view to its lawfulness, expediency and economic efficiency. Detailed Committee member profiles can be accessed at www.euronatur.org.

Board of Trustees serves as an advisory committee

EuroNatur's Presiding Committee can nominate persons to the Board of Trustees who support the organization's concerns. In 2016, EuroNatur's Board of Trustees had 21 members, all of whom served in a voluntary capacity. They support EuroNatur in three areas: technical advice, especially with respect to access to funding; public relations work; establishing the organization and its work more firmly within society. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees attends the

meetings of the Presiding Committee in an advisory capacity. Detailed profiles of the Members of the Board of Trustees can be accessed at www.euronatur.org.

Salaried management staff in charge of operative implementation

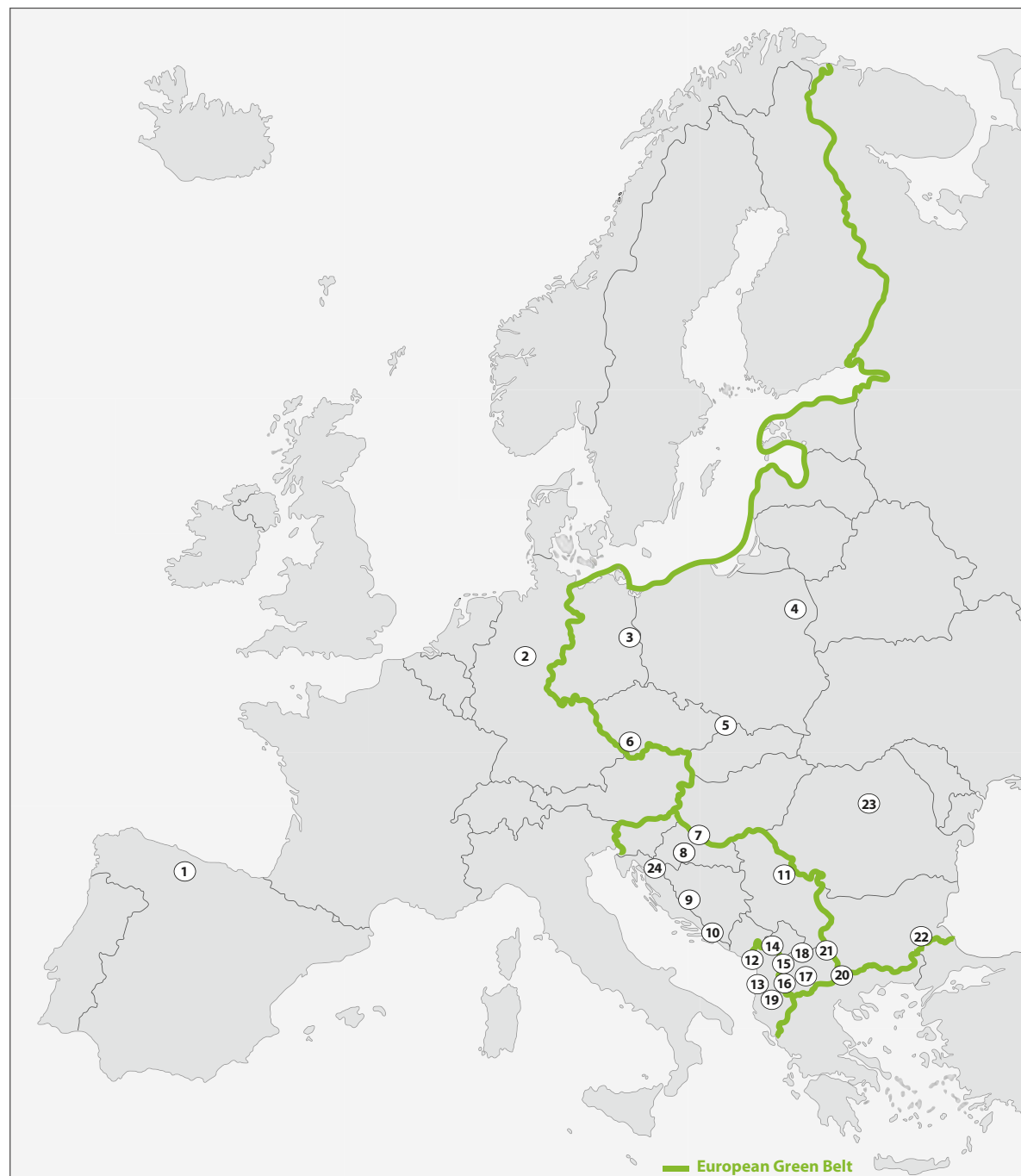
The full-time salaried management team consisting of the Executive Director and the Director for Nature Conservation Policy is in charge of and responsible for steering the organization's operative work. In 2016, EuroNatur maintained two offices in Germany and employed a total of 20 staff. Central functions such as managing donors, bookkeeping, general administration and public relations work are based in Radolfzell at Lake Constance, as are most of the project management activities. The conservation policy office is based in Rheinbach near Bonn. More than 30 voluntary collaborators support the work of EuroNatur Foundation.

EuroNatur Service GmbH

A little more than 20 years ago, the European Nature Heritage Fund established a wholly owned subsidiary, the EuroNatur Service GmbH, a limited company. This small but efficient service provider publishes and markets landscape and wildlife calendars and guidebooks on EuroNatur's project regions as well as a wide range of reference books and exclusive items. Additionally the EuroNatur Service GmbH has specialized on layout and mail order services which it provides to the European Nature Heritage Fund and other clients.

Important project areas

- ① Cantabrian Mountains (Spain)
- ② Senne (Germany)
- ③ Brandenburg (Germany)
- ④ Narew/Podlaskie (Poland)
- ⑤ Western Beskidy Mountains (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia)
- ⑥ Bohemian Forest/Šumava (Czech Republic)
- ⑦ Mura-Drava-Danube „Amazon of Europe“
(Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia)
- ⑧ Sava floodplains (Croatia)
- ⑨ Livanjsko Polje (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- ⑩ Neretva-Delta (Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- ⑪ Labudovo Okno (Serbia)
- ⑫ Bojana-Buna and Lake Skadar (Montenegro, Albania)
- ⑬ Karavasta Lagoon (Albania)
- ⑭ Prokletije/Bjeshket e Nemuna (Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo)
- ⑮ Munella Mountains and Mavrovo National Park (Albania, Macedonia)
- ⑯ Jablanica-Shebenik Mountains (Albania, Macedonia)
- ⑰ Illinska-Plakenska Mountains (Macedonia)
- ⑱ Šar Mountains (Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo)
- ⑲ Vjosa (Albania)
- ⑳ Belasitsa Mountains (Bulgaria)
- ㉑ Osogovo Mountains (Bulgaria, Macedonia)
- ㉒ Sakar (Bulgaria)
- ㉓ Carpathian Mountains (Romania)
- ㉔ Northern Dinarides (Croatia)





EuroNatur's project foci in 2016

In 2016, the projects implemented by EuroNatur Foundation focused on the following areas:

- Protecting the European Green Belt and further advancing the European Green Belt Initiative
- Protecting Europe's rivers
- Protecting migratory birds in Europe
- Large mammal protection in Europe
- Agricultural policy, biodiversity policy, energy policy

This Annual Report describes in some detail a selection of projects under individual priority headings. EuroNatur Foundation has supported and implemented a number of additional projects and initiatives over and above these priorities, a more detailed description of which is beyond the scope of this report.

Priority "European Green Belt"

Funding spent on this priority: 475,000 Euro

Projects:

Development of the European Green Belt as part of green infrastructure (Partners: BUND; Funding: BfN with funds provided by BMUB, EuroNatur's donors), **Strengthening the cooperation along the Balkan Green Belt** (Partners: IUCN, PPNEA, BBF, Green Balkans, SPP, ERA, MES, CZIP, BPSSS, DAYKO, ASER; Funding: DBU), **Nature conservation and sustainable development along the Green Belt in Albania** (Partners: PPNEA, local NGOs; Funding: BfN with funds provided by BMUB, Mava Foundation, EuroNatur's donors), **Transboundary protection for the Belasitsa Mountains** (Partners: BBF Belasitsa, Belasitsa Nature Park, Lake Kerkini National Park, Environmental Association Planetum-Strumica; Funding: DBU, Mava Foundation, EuroNatur's donors), **Transboundary protection for the Osogovo Mountains** (Partners: BBF, MES; Funding: ZGF, DBU, Mava Foundation,

Naturefund, Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection, EuroNatur's donors), **Biodiversity protection in the Macedonian Šar Mountains** (Partner: MES; Funding: DBU, EuroNatur's donors), **Protection of the Šumava National Park** (Partners: Hnutí Duha; Funding: EuroNatur's donors), **Elaboration and implementation of a monitoring scheme for the conservation of selected species at Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Skadar** (Partners: CZIP, MES, PPNEA, government ministries and public authorities in Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro; Funding: GIZ)



Priority "Protecting Europe's rivers"

Funding spent on this priority: 574,000 Euro

Projects:

"Save the Blue Heart of Europe" campaign (Partners: Riverwatch, MES, Eko-svest, Front 21/42, EcoAlbania, HDZPP, Neza Posnjak; Funding: Mava Foundation, Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection, Patagonia, Fondation pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature, EuroNatur's donors), **Protecting one of Europe's important lifelines – Support for the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve "Mura-Drava-Danube"** (Partners: Green Osijek, HDZPP, WWF; Funding: EuroNatur's donors, Mava Foundation), **Protecting the Sava floodplains** (Partners: HDZPP, Lonjsko Polje Nature Park; Funding: EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **SavaParks network for transboundary protection for the Sava river landscape** (Partners: Lonjsko Polje Nature Park, HDZPP, all members of the SavaParks Network; Funding: Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, Michael Otto Foundation for Environmental Protection, EuroNatur's donors)

Priority "Protecting migratory birds in Europe"

Funding spent on this priority: 534,000 Euro

Projects:

Safeguarding important resting areas for migratory birds along the Adriatic Flyway (Partners: HDZPP, BIOM, DOPPS, BPSSS, CZIP, Naše ptice, Naša bastina, APAWA, AOS, ASPBM, MES, PPNEA; Funding: Mava Foundation, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Protecting the Ulcinj salt flats** (Partners: CZIP; Funding: Mava Foundation, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Protecting the Tivat salt flats** (Partners: CZIP, Tivat municipality, Morsko Dobro; Funding: DBU, Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, EuroNatur's donors), **Optimizing management at the Hutovo Blato Nature Park, with special emphasis on controlling poaching** (Partners: Hutovo Blato Nature Park, Naše ptice, Lijepa naša, Galeb Hunting Association; Funding: CEPF, Turdus – bird and nature conservancy, Schaffhausen/CH, Ludwig Raue Memorial Fund, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Protecting the Dalmatian pelicans at Lake Skadar and in the Karavasta Lagoon** (Partners: Noé Conservation, Lake Skadar National Park administration, Tour du Valat, APAWA, CZIP, Natural History Museum of Montenegro, Lake Kerkini Management Authority, Divjaka-Karavasta National Park administration, SPP, IUCN/WI-Pelican Specialist Group, INCA, PPNEA; Funding: Mava Foundation, CEPF, CMS, Botiaux Dulac Stiftung, Lush cosmetics)

company, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Protecting Ospreys in Asturias** (Partners: FAPAS, Funding: EuroNatur's donors), **Protecting migratory birds in the Senne landscape** (Partners: Paderborn-Senne Biological Station; Funding: Gelsenwasser AG (water and energy supply company), Stadtwerke Bielefeld GmbH – public utility, EuroNatur's donors), **Lesser kestrel reintroduction at Sakar** (Partners: Green Balkans, Dema; Funding: Life+, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Bright Future for Black Vulture in Bulgaria** (Partners: Green Balkans, VCF, FWFF; Funding: LIFE+, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Protecting of European wet meadows and pastures, in particular in the European Stork Villages** (Partners: Ciconia Foundation, European Stork Villages and their national conservation partners; Funding: Pancivis Foundation, Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, Bristol Foundation, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Protecting the karst poljes of Bosnia-Herzegovina as important bird resting and breeding areas** (Partners: Naše ptice, Naša bastina, Youth Centre from Livno; Funding: Mava Foundation)



Priority "Agricultural policy, biodiversity policy, energy policy"

Funding spent on this priority: 312,000 Euro

Projects:

Agricultural platform – alliance consisting of roughly 30 associations representing the concerns of nature conservation, environmental protection, animal welfare, family farming, organic farming, and development policy in the process for the reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (Funding: BfN with funds provided by BMUB), **Guidance for the establishment of regional, decentralized economic and supply structures in Podlasia/Poland with a focus on renewable energy** (Partners: Białystok Marshal's Office, Politechnika Białystok, the town of Lapy, Energievision Frankenwald e.V., the town of Wunsiedel and the Wunsiedel Department of Public Works; Funding: UBA with funds provided by BMUB), **Critical input to the "fitness check" by the EU Commission of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives** (Partner: EHF; Funding: EuroNatur's donors)

Priority "Large mammal protection in Europe"

Funding spent on this priority: 485,000 Euro

Projects:

Protecting brown bears in the Cantabrian Mountains (Partner: FAPAS; Funding: EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Protecting brown bears in the eastern Carpathians** (Partner: Milvus; Funding: EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Protecting primary forests in Romania** (Partner: Agent Green; Funding: Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection, Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, Christian Martin Stiftung, Maiores Foundation, Pancivis Foundation, EuroNatur's donors), **Protecting brown bears in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro** (Partner: CZIP, CZZS, NGO "Southern Blue Sky"; Funding: EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Protecting brown bears, lynx and grey wolves in the northern Dinarides** (Partner: University of Zagreb, Carnivora Magna; Funding: LIFE+, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme** (Partners: MES, PPNEA, CZIP, Finch, ERA, KORA; Funding: Mava Foundation, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Protection of grey wolf populations that have recolonized western Poland** (Partner: Wilk; Funding: Lappat Fund, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors),

Protection of large carnivores in Poland, with special emphasis on wolves and lynx (Partner: MRI; Funding: Elisabeth Seifert-Becker's endowment fund for the protection of wolves in memory of Viktoria Neumann, Emilie and Franz Seifert, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Maintaining the ecological integrity of migration corridors for large carnivores (especially wolves) in Poland** (Partners: Conservation organisation "Workshop for all Beings"; Funding: EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Transboundary protection of wolf populations in the Western Beskids** (Partners: Hnutí Duha, Wilk; Funding: EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Monitoring of the wolf population in Slovakia** (Partners: CWS; Funding: EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Protection of large carnivores in Baden-Wuerttemberg**, **Guidelines for dealing with wolves** (Partners: EuroNatur is a member of the 'Arbeitskreis Wolf' working group as part of the 'AG Lynx Baden Wuerttemberg' working group, Funding: EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Mediterranean monk seals – Cap Blanc** (Partner: CBD Habitat; Funding: EuroNatur's donors and sponsors)



Abbreviations

Partners:

AbL: Association for family farming in Germany
 AOS: Albanian Ornithological Society
 APAWA: Association for Protection of Aquatic Wildlife of Albania
 ASER: Romania Explorers Speleological Association
 ASPBM: Albanian Society for the Protection of Birds and Mammals
 BBF: Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation
 BIOM: BirdLife Croatia
 BPSSS: Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia
 BUND: Friends of the Earth Germany
 CWS: Carpathian Wildlife Society
 CZIP: Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro
 CZZS: Center for Environment in Bosnia-Herzegovina
 DAYKO: Foundation of Protection of the Natural Life
 DOPPS: BirdLife Slovenia
 EHF: European Habitats Forum
 ERA: Environmentally Responsible Action group

FAPAS: Wild animal protection fund (Spain)
 FWFF: Fund for Wild Flora and Fauna
 HDZPP: Croatian Society for Bird and Nature Protection
 INCA: Institute of Nature Conservation in Albania
 IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature
 KORA: Coordinated Research Projects for the Protection and Management of Carnivores in Switzerland
 MES: Macedonian Ecological Society
 MRI: Mammal Research Institute
 PPNEA: Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania
 SPP: Society for the Protection of Prespa
 VCF: Vulture Conservation Foundation
 WI: Wetlands International
 Wilk: Conservation Association "Wolf"
 WWF: World Wide Fund For Nature

Funding:

BfN: German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
 BMUB: Federal Environment Ministry
 CEPF: Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
 CMS: Convention on Migratory Species
 DBU: German Federal Environmental Foundation
 GIZ: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
 UBA: German Federal Environment Agency
 ZGF: Frankfurt Zoological Society

Photo: Gunther Willinger - Border fence between Bulgaria and Turkey



From Iron Curtain to lifeline

Composed of ecosystems with an extraordinarily high level of biodiversity, the European Green Belt forms a 12,500 km long corridor along the route of the former Iron Curtain from Europe's most northern regions all the way down to the Black Sea and the Adriatic Sea in the south. In what was a restricted area in the past, habitats that have become hard to find elsewhere in Europe such as old-growth forests, wild mountain and river landscapes as well as species-rich cultural landscapes are strung here like precious pearls on a necklace. Today, nature is the connecting element where for decades the eastern and western bloc powers had faced each other in hostility.

Under pressure from all sides

The "closed season" for nature ended however with the political transformation that took place in the early 1990s. The overexploitation of natural resources, excessive hunting pressure and growth in tourism endanger species of fauna and flora in what in many cases are their last refuges. The Green Belt is at great risk, especially in the Balkans.

Transboundary cooperation

Our aim is to maintain the valuable natural and cultural landscapes along the former Iron Curtain as 'green lifelines'. EuroNatur is the regional coordinator of conservation activities in the Balkan Green Belt. We are developing pilot projects for successful, transboundary cooperation which can also serve as templates for other European regions. We are still a long way away from a pan-European ecological network. To this end we aim to establish more firmly within society the idea of the Green Belt and improve linkages between the various projects along the Green Belt.



Selected EuroNatur projects in 2016

European Green Belt Initiative: Transcending borders together

Geographical location in Europe

Ecosystem network with an extraordinarily high level of biodiversity, forming a 12,500 km long corridor along the route of the former Iron Curtain (Map p.10). The European Green Belt connects eight biogeographical regions and 24 nations. The Balkan Green Belt constitutes its southernmost section.

Status

Conservation activities carried out by the numerous actors involved are coordinated by four regional coordinators – one for each of the Green Belt's four sections. EuroNatur is the regional coordinator of conservation activities in the Balkan Green Belt. There had not been an overall European-level coordination unit since the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) laid down this mandate in 2010. Since 2011, EuroNatur and BUND, as part of an international steering group, have been coordinating the initiative. In 2014, the European Green Belt Association was established, which represents the European Green Belt initiative and is in charge of coordination. Governmental and non-governmental stakeholders work together in the association. EuroNatur and BUND were appointed as chair and deputy chair respectively.

Objectives

Our aim is to strengthen cooperation between the individual countries sharing the Green Belt, particularly in the Balkans. Especially in times of resurgent nationalism and border closures, transboundary cooperative initiatives in nature conservation should set a counterpoint. We work towards increasing the Green Belt's public visibility and towards generating an awareness of its conservation importance.

Selected activities in 2016

- In the autumn of 2016 the 9th Pan-European Green Belt Conference was held in Finland. More than 125 representatives of conservation authorities and organizations participated with a view to further advancing the initiative. Following the conference, the 30 member organizations of the European Green Belt Association formally adopted their action plan for the next two years.
- The first-ever Green Belt Day was celebrated on September 24, 2016 in all nine countries along the Balkan Green Belt. The winners of the first Balkan Green Belt photography contest were also honoured at this occasion. The photography contest had sparked keen interest.

Selected achievements in 2016

- The conference in Finland once more demonstrated that at least in the conservation sector the European idea has taken root. All participating countries are eager to intensify transboundary cooperation along the European Green Belt.
- The Green Belt Day at the Great Prespa Lake brought together the three regional Mayors from Albania, Macedonia and Greece respectively. Especially in light of the difficult political situation between Macedonia and Greece, this meeting crucially signified that nature conservation can transcend borders.

Outlook

Our aim is to further foster exchange between stakeholders and to enhance the initiative's image. The Green Belt Day and the photography contest will again be held in the coming year. Moreover, we want to encourage the regional organizations to engage in cross-border cooperation.

Partners: BUND, IUCN and all stakeholders
at the European Green Belt

Funding: BfN with funds provided by BMUB,
DBU, EuroNatur's donors



Albania: Prospects for people and nature

Geographical location in Europe

The sustainable rural development project in the Albanian Green Belt includes two areas: One is the Rajca core zone of the Shebenik-Jablanica National Park in the region bordering Macedonia (Map p.5, No.16), the other is the "Lumi I Gashit" Nature Reserve in the planned Albanian Alps National Park (Map p.5, No.14).

Status

Twenty-five years on from the profound political changes in Eastern Europe, the situation in Albania is still characterized by relative instability and profound disparities. The rural population hardly benefits from economic growth in the country, while this growth has primarily been to the detriment of nature and the environment. In this context, well-managed protected areas can make a significant contribution to the protection of biodiversity in Albania and at the same time open up opportunities in sustainable development for the rural population. Both project areas are important refuges for rare species and are home to Albania's last old-growth beech forests. However, when it comes to protected area management there is as yet much work to be done.

Objectives

The aim of the project is to protect biological diversity and to foster sustainable rural development in selected protected areas as part of the Balkan Green Belt in Albania. We hope to ensure that the protected area's core zones will continue to be able to develop unaffected by human impacts and aim at reducing land-use pressure in surrounding areas. Small pilot projects for ecological regional development are to be implemented in collaboration with the local communities.

Selected activities in 2016

- The inhabitants of the village of Skenderbej have traditionally, and legally so, been heating their homes with firewood cut in their communal forests located in the national park. In order to protect these forests from further overexploitation, the village school was equipped with an efficient central heating system that will require significantly lower amounts of fuel than the old stoves. It is envisaged that wood consumption will drop by 25 % as a result.
- Twelve men and women with an interest in nature conservation were trained to become competent nature guides. They will introduce future visitors to the valuable role played by the Shebenik-Jablanica National Park as part of the Balkan Green Belt.

- 850 hazelnut bushes were planted on degraded agricultural land in the national park. They will provide an additional income for the local people and also help protect the soil from erosion.

Important achievements in 2016

- The successfully completed pilot projects provide concrete examples of sustainable regional development. The local communities were educated on the special characteristics and conservation importance of the area and very actively participated in the activities.

Outlook

Closing workshops were held in both of the project areas. These workshops provided an opportunity for the local NGOs to exchange their experiences and collect ideas for future projects. It is hoped that the pilot projects will also inspire similar projects in other areas of the Balkan Green Belt.

Partners: PPNEA, local NGOs

Funding: BfN with funds provided by BMUB, Mava Foundation, EuroNatur's donors



A green future for the Šar Mountains

Geographical location in Europe

The Šar Mountains (Map p.5, No.18) as part of the Balkan Green Belt are located in the north-westernmost region of Macedonia. A greater part of the mountain range extends into Kosovo and a smaller part is located in neighbouring Albania.

Status

The Šar Mountain massif is a true biodiversity hotspot. It hosts not only rare endemic species of flora and fauna but is also home to Europe's large mammals such as brown bears and grey wolves. The biological diversity and calm beauty of the Šar Mountain massif must be protected – its natural treasures are under threat from clear-felling, construction projects and ruthless hunting activities. The Macedonian government has not yet taken any steps towards establishing a protected area, despite repeated proclamations to this effect. The small Balkan state's political crises further complicate the situation.

Objectives

For several years now we have been working towards gaining the support of the local communities for a national park designation. Our hope is that by increasing grassroots pressure we will be able to compel the Macedonian government to designate the Šar Mountains as a national park. Improved marketing of local products is to provide direct value added to local communities.

Selected activities in 2016

- At the end of January 2016, the members of the "Friends of Shara" action group, a group co-initiated by EuroNatur, received training in developing a communications strategy. As a first activity the action group set up their own website (sharplanina.com.mk/prijatelinashara/).
- Restoration works on a mountain hut purchased as part of the project commenced in October 2016. It will become an attractive accommodation facility for hikers and add value to the area in accordance with the principles of sustainable tourism.

Important achievements in 2016

- People want a national park! A representative survey carried out by the "Friends of Shara" action group showed that 83 % of the local people were in favour of the establishment of a national park. Our years of engagement are paying off.
- In its second year, the "Friends of Shara" action group has successfully taken the debate on a national park into the public sphere and is now doing this work under its own direction. Among others, the national television broadcaster as well as most of the local media reported on the survey the group had conducted on the idea of a national park designation.

Outlook

The campaign for a national designation will continue in the coming year. Moreover, we will conduct a study tour to the Bavarian Forest/Šumava National Park together with Šar Mountains forestry service personnel and forestry scientists from the University of Skopje. The aim is to demonstrate a model of sustainable management and protection of forest ecosystems.

Partner: MES

Funding: DBU, EuroNatur's donors

Photo: Ian Pirna - Kayakers on Sava river



Vital blue lifelines under pressure

Free-flowing rivers are the lifelines of our planet. In Europe, few other ecosystems are similarly rich in species. River landscapes formed by the water's natural dynamics are a paradise not only for resting and breeding birds, fish, mussels and snails but also provide fertile land for humans, space for recreation, and a rich food base.

Dammed up and cut off

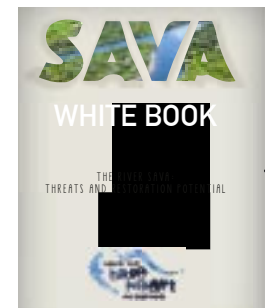
All over Europe, rivers and their natural floodplains are under pressure. In addition to uncontrolled gravel extraction and development for shipping, it is primarily technical flood protection measures and hydropower projects that destroy Europe's blue lifelines. Dams are among the most destructive interventions in the natural landscape. They turn vibrant watercourses into lifeless reservoirs and downstream sections often turn into pitiful rivulets. Dams do not only block the passage of water and the migration of organisms but also the transport of gravel and sand towards the sea. In short, they fundamentally disturb river dynamics. The construction of embankments is no less harmful. Today, many formerly species-rich alluvial forests stand isolated, at a good distance from the current course of the river and cut off from floodwaters. They have lost their function as water retention areas for flood waves. And new dams and embankments continue to be built instead of restoration measures being taken to improve natural flood protection.

Our mission

Together with our partner organizations we aim at protecting the last remaining intact ecological arteries on our continent and strive for their sustainable utilization. Shipping must adapt to rivers – not the other way round. Hydropower projects must give due consideration to aspects of nature conservation and species protection, rather than destroy species diversity and habitats under the guise of "green" energy generation. Instead of further constricting rivers through technical flood protection measures, rivers should be given back more space, thus allowing them to achieve their potential for natural flood protection.

The focus in 2016

Our continent's last pristine river paradises can be found in the Balkans. They are one of the major European biodiversity hotspots. Nonetheless almost all of these lifelines are destined for hydropower dam construction. Once again, much of our work in 2016 was devoted to saving the "Blue Heart of Europe".



Selected EuroNatur projects in 2016

Speaking with one voice for the Sava

Geographical location in Europe

Sava river along its entire course from its source in the Julian Alps to its confluence with the Danube at Belgrade. Along its length of more than 900 km, the Sava river connects four countries: Slovenia, Croatia, (Map p.5, No.8), Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia.

Status

The Sava is one of central Europe's ecologically most valuable rivers. The Sava river landscape with its extensive alluvial wet meadows and forests represents a model for natural flood protection that is unique in Europe. However, hydropower and shipping projects, massive levels of gravel extraction and the construction of additional dams and embankments are threatening to destroy the Sava, weaken sustainable development in the region and heighten the risk of flooding. In order to address these concerns, the SavaParks Network was established in 2014 and at this point counts more than 20 members. This association of protected area administrations, nature conservation authorities and NGOs along the Sava aims to shield the river along its entire course from the interests of the hydraulic engineering and hydropower lobbies.

Objectives

SavaParks advocates the protection and sustainable use of the Sava river landscape. The aim of the network is to render the work of the protected area administrations more effective beyond national borders. While in the past we only reacted to destructive developments, the SavaParks Network has created an ecologically compatible vision for the river as a whole, with a view to proactively steering developments in a positive direction.

Selected activities in 2016

- The „Sava White Book“ was completed. It includes the first succinct description of this unique river's ecological importance and the threats it faces. It also describes precisely localized opportunities as to how the Sava river can be preserved as an ecological lifeline and how natural flood protection can be improved, for example by restoring sections that have already been subjected to river engineering measures.
- Nine pilot projects addressing nature conservation, ecological regional development, and river restoration along the Sava river were completed in 2016.

Important achievements in 2016

- With the „Sava White Book“ we now have at hand a strong means of argumentation that significantly reinforces the position of all those who protect the Sava in their negotiations with decision-makers.
- The pilot projects have considerably improved the public visibility of the SavaParks Network and its objectives.
- The plans to develop the Sava river between Sisak and Brcko into a “water motorway” have officially been shelved. We had persistently pointed out at the national and international levels that the plans contravened EU law in force.

Outlook

We are working on making the SavaParks Network even more powerful. Our aim is to use the „Sava White Book“ to gain support for the protection of the Sava of ministries in all of the countries bordering the river as well as of relevant EU-level committees.

Partners: Lonjsko Polje Nature Park, HDZPP, SavaParks Network

Funding: Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation,
Michael Otto Foundation for Environmental Protection,
EuroNatur's donors



"Save the Blue Heart of Europe" campaign

Geographical location in Europe

Streams and rivers in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Serbia, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Kosovo. Key areas of the "Save the Blue Heart of Europe" campaign are the Mavrovo National Park (Map p.5, No.15) in Macedonia, the Vjosa river (Map p.5, No.19) in Albania, and the Sava river in Slovenia and Croatia (Map p.5, No.8).

Status

The pristine river landscapes of the Balkan Peninsula are among Europe's greatest natural treasures. Our continent's "Blue Heart of Europe" is beating in the Balkans. However, the Balkan rivers are about to be hit by a tsunami of dam developments: If small plants are included in the count, the total number of planned hydropower projects is close to 3000, with many of them being supported by international banks and corporations. Under the guise of "renewable energy", these developments are bringing with them the large-scale destruction of biodiversity.

Mavrovo National Park:

The hydropower lobby does not even respect protected areas. Mavrovo is one of Europe's oldest national parks and a jewel in the crown of the European Green Belt. Hydropower plants threaten to destroy biodiversity that has developed there over thousands of years.

Sava:

With its enormous alluvial forests, meanders, and agricultural lands under the influence of the river's water regime, the Sava river is one of Europe's most interesting riverscapes. But the existing hydropower plants in the upper reaches of the Sava catchment are already causing significant damage downstream. Nonetheless there are plans for additional plants.

Vjosa:

The Vjosa river is one of the last remaining major wild rivers on our continent, but it is threatened with total destruction and some of the destructive developments are already in motion. Numerous hydropower plants are projected along the Vjosa and its tributaries. Practically every single one of the tributaries is to be dammed and diverted.

Objectives

Aided by the "Save the Blue Heart of Europe" campaign, which commenced in 2013, our objective is to stop planned hydropower projects in the three key areas mentioned above. At the same time our aim is to draw the national and international public's attention to the Balkan rivers' beauty and to the threats they face. It is not our intention to completely block hydropower in the Balkan Peninsula. However, plans for hydropower expansion must urgently take into consideration aspects of nature conservation and species protection.

Selected activities in 2016

- As part of the "Balkan Rivers Tour", 500 kayakers from all over Europe paddled the most beautiful and most seriously threatened Balkan rivers over a period of five weeks in order to draw attention to the huge number of planned dams. The campaign ended with a protest against the destruction of the Vjosa which drew a lot of media attention. The Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama was given a kayak signed by more than a thousand people who advocate the establishment of a Vjosa National Park.
- At an event at the European Parliament we lobbied for the preparation of a supra-regional concept for hydropower development on the Balkans. The concept should designate particularly valuable rivers and river sections as areas that are closed to all hydropower plant developments. National and international stakeholders came together at this event, including NGOs, energy supply companies, financial institutions, and EU representatives.



Mavrovo National Park:

- The permission for the construction of the large-scale "Boskov Most" hydropower plant contravenes national environmental law as the environmental impact assessment was inadequate. Our Macedonian partner organization Front 21/42 has filed a claim against the development at the administrative court.

Vjosa:

- Almost no research has been conducted on the Vjosa's species diversity. Therefore, the impacts of hydropower plants are unforeseeable, rendering their construction a wholly irresponsible act. As part of a conference we networked scientists from Albania, Germany and Austria. The scientists called on the Albanian government to declare a three year moratorium on construction projects along the Vjosa so as to allow for a comprehensive research programme to be conducted. The memorandum was later signed by hundreds of additional renowned scientists.
- Together with 38 local residents who would be affected by the "Pocem" hydropower plant, we filed a claim at the Albanian administrative court against the concession awarded for the development which threatens one of the ecologically most significant sections of the Vjosa river.

Sava:

- With the „Sava White Book" (see p.15) we presented concrete alternatives to the destruction of the Sava by dams and embankments.

Important achievements in 2016

- The EU Parliament has once again criticized the Albanian government on its hydropower policy: It called for the abandonment of hydropower projects on the Vjosa and for the designation of a Vjosa National Park instead.
- The EU Commission takes seriously the threat to the Balkan rivers and has initiated the preparation of a transnational concept for hydropower expansion in the Balkans. Now, every effort must be made to ensure that the concept will include a designation of sensitive rivers and river segments as zones closed to hydropower developments.
- The Macedonian administrative court has declared as invalid the approval for the construction of the "Boskov Most" hydropower plant in Mavrovo National Park.

Three years of campaigning: An interim assessment

We have significantly improved the data and knowledge base on the ecological value of the Balkan rivers, the extent of the threat to these rivers, and the causes of these threats. There is now a large network of allies in the fight against the destruction of the "Blue Heart of Europe". The

campaign has brought the issue to the attention of the national and international public and important EU institutions. In all of its annual reports on the accession countries, the EU Commission now makes reference to the threats faced by the Balkan rivers. The European Parliament, too, has passed several resolutions calling for the protection of the Balkan rivers. We were able to prevent the construction of some hydropower plants in particularly sensitive areas, at least for the time being, such as the large-scale "Lukovo Pole" hydropower plant in the Mavrovo National Park. We are on the right path, but the effort needed to save the Blue Heart of Europe is keeping us very busy indeed.

Outlook

We will continue the campaign with great intensity. This includes efforts to close knowledge gaps, court actions, and activities to mobilize civil society in the countries affected. We will also continue to focus on media and lobby campaigns at the national and European policy levels. In addition, we are planning to more strongly present alternatives to the expansion of hydropower.

Partners: Riverwatch, MES, Eko-svest, Front 21/42,

EcoAlbania, HDZPP, Neza Posnjak

Funding: Mava Foundation, Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection, Patagonia,

Fondation pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature, EuroNatur's donors

Internet: www.balkanrivers.net/de

Europe's rivers

Photo: Otto Samwald - Brambling (Fringilla montifringilla)



Protecting migratory birds in Europe

The avian migration is one of Europe's major natural spectacles and is still not fully understood by ornithologists. But one thing is for sure: It's always a dangerous journey! In addition to the destruction of intact resting places, the nomads of the sky are primarily threatened by bird hunting to which millions of migratory birds continue to fall victim year after year.

A multitude of threats

On their long journey between their summer and wintering grounds, migratory birds are dependent on areas in which they can find sufficient feed and recover their strength. However, especially in the Balkan Peninsula habitat destruction and bird hunting are rampant, decimating populations of Eurasian cranes, garganeys and many other species.

Our mission

Our aim is to weave an increasingly tighter net of safe and intact resting grounds. As in previous years, the geographical focus of our work has been in south-eastern Europe. The so-called Adriatic Flyway traverses the Balkan Peninsula where our efforts are primarily targeted at curbing illegal bird hunting.

A reliable network of partners

The protection of migratory birds by definition entails cross-border species protection, requiring a strong network of allies. In 2016, EuroNatur was able to extend its cooperation with international organizations and with the Secretariats of a number of multilateral environmental agreements.

We continued to systematically intensify our cooperation with AEWA, the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds. In September 2016 we organized, together with the AEWA Secretariat, a workshop in Croatia attended by 17 representatives of conservation organizations and authorities from 11 countries along the Adriatic Flyway. We trained the participants with regard to the implementation of the Agreement and built a basis for increased future cooperation. In early 2016 EuroNatur became an official member of the Strategic Working Group of the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership which coordinates the International Waterbird Census in Europe and Africa. To this working group we contribute, in particular, our expertise on the Adriatic Flyway. In addition, we strengthened our cooperation with the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

In our projects aimed at the protection of migratory birds we place great emphasis on creating linkages between the project partners and to foster the exchange of experiences. In tandem with the migratory birds themselves this work must transcend national borders.

Selected EuroNatur projects in 2016

Honorary citizen: The White stork

Geographical location in Europe

"European Stork Villages" in Croatia, Hungary, Germany, Spain, Romania, Slovenia, Poland, Austria, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Turkey, Macedonia, Slovakia, Serbia and Greece.

Status

Wet grasslands, both meadows and pastures, are valuable habitats of significant importance to species protection in Europe. However, as a result of the intensification of farming more and more of these grasslands are disappearing and the populations of characteristic species of these habitats, such as the common snipe, northern lapwing and the corncrake are in serious decline. While this trend is not yet manifest in the white storks' population figures, this may change very quickly.

Objectives

With the "European Stork Villages" initiative we intend to establish a decisive counterpoint to the increasing loss of white stork habitats. The aim is for municipalities honoured for their exemplary efforts in the protection of white storks to function as "flagship projects" for the conservation of wetlands and cultural landscapes.

Selected activities in 2016

- In collaboration with EuroNatur and local partner organizations, six stork villages have now completed action plans aimed at improving their stork populations' nesting and feeding conditions.
- Wet meadow restoration projects or environmental education measures were implemented in almost all of the stork villages. Additionally, progress was made on insulating dangerous powerlines in many of the municipalities.
- In 2016, the Conference of "European Stork Villages" – already the 13th of its kind – was held in Hungary. It was attended by representatives of almost all of the stork villages. Moreover, it was the first of these conferences to include presentations by external conservation experts.

Important achievements in 2016

- The valuable insights offered by the experts at the conference were immediately taken on board by the stork villages. The Turkish stork village Eskikaraağaç, for example, developed a grazing project for which they purchased a herd of a local cattle breed called "Boz ırk".



- In 2016 we welcomed the Greek municipality of Poros as the newest member of the stork village family. Poros is located on the edge of the Evros Delta on the Greek-Turkish border. The municipality has already become very well integrated into the community and with its engagement has also inspired the other stork villages; they are a true asset to the community.

Outlook

The network of European Stork Villages has been further consolidated, with the villages inspiring each other and also drawing on external expertise, as was evident from the conference in Hungary. Poros will host the 14th meeting of the stork villages in 2017. Moreover, the initiative will establish a joint website with a view to facilitating better exchange between the municipalities.

Partners: Ciconia Foundation, European Stork Villages and their national partners in conservation

Funding: Pancivis Foundation, Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, Bristol Foundation, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors



Adriatic Flyway – Risky route across the Balkans

Geographical location in Europe

Bird habitats along the Adriatic Flyway in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania. The Adriatic Flyway stretches from north-eastern Europe through the Balkans down to Africa. Key areas are the Neretva Delta including the Hutovo Blato Nature Park in the border area of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, the karstic Livanjsko polje in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the near-natural Labudovo Okno wetland along the Danube in Serbia and the Bojana Buna Delta including the Ulcinj salt flats in the border area of Montenegro and Albania (Map p.5, No.10, 9, 11, 12).

Status

The issue of bird hunting on the Balkans continues to be a constant focus of EuroNatur's work. While the legal framework along the Adriatic Flyway has seen some improvements, not least due to our dogged persistence, its implementation still leaves much to be desired. In many locations there are no strict control mechanisms, and prosecutions for offences are rare. And then there is the issue of habitat destruction: More than 70 % of the historically flooded areas as part of the region's floodplains and river deltas have already been drained for agricultural purposes, built-over for tourism or transport infrastructure or have been degraded in other ways.

Special focus in 2016

Covering an area of 1,500 ha, the Ulcinj salt flats as part of the Bojana Buna Delta are among the largest salt flats in the Mediterranean. The lagoon was restructured for the purposes of salt production and is one of the most important resting, breeding and wintering grounds for migratory birds along the eastern Adriatic coastline. Its importance is akin to that played by London's Heathrow airport for European air traffic. However, there are plans to develop the wetlands for mass tourism and to this end the owners are systemically letting the infrastructure disintegrate. Flamingos, stone-curlews and pratincoles are to make room for people to play golf or splash around in whirlpools. The fight to retain the Ulcinj salt flats in their current form has been keeping EuroNatur and its partners on tenterhooks for years now and 2016 was no exception.

Objectives

Our aim is to protect the most important resting, breeding and wintering grounds along the Adriatic Flyway and make them safer for migratory birds. To this end, we work on establishing a functioning network of trained birdwatchers who regularly patrol these areas in order to monitor both bird populations and illegal hunting activities. The aim is to strongly curb bird hunting on the Balkans. Sustained

improvements for migratory birds on the eastern Adriatic coast can only be achieved if we can get governmental and non-governmental organizations to work together closely at both national and international levels.

Selected activities in 2016

- We organized a series of workshops that dealt with, among other topics, the systematic recording of bird populations and international standards for censuses that must be adhered to. The knowledge gained was to be applied to bird censuses in all project areas. Reliable population data are fundamental to successful work on the protection of migratory birds.
- In the Hutovo Blato Nature Park we carried out several environmental education measures, one of which was the erection at a school of a display board on bird migration. In 2016 we also organized another "Ornitho-Festival" which was very well attended.
- Also in the Hutovo Blato Nature Park we insured the continuation of ranger patrols. The Rangers proved to be competent and reliable. Infringements detected were notified to the authorities.



Important achievements in 2016

- The rangers' committed work in the Hutovo Blato Nature Park has borne fruit: As part of the International Mid-winter Waterbird Census in January 2016 approximately 26,000 birds were recorded – another significant increase on the previous year's figure.
- In March 2014 the Albanian government had for the first time declared a two-year hunting moratorium for the entire country, primarily on account of the massive decline of wildlife in Albania. In June 2016 the hunting ban was extended for a period of five years, not least due to the persistent pressure exerted by EuroNatur and other conservation organizations.
- The karst poljes of Bosnia-Herzegovina are important resting and breeding areas for migratory birds. However, in many areas they are being exploited, for example for intensive farming. In 2016, we were able to partner with the "Aroma organica Livno" cooperative for an organic farming pilot project. The cooperative is leasing 22 ha of land in the Livanjsko Polje, one of the most important wetlands in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They have already brought the land under organic management. Moreover we were able to convince the Ministry for the Environment of the project's merits. The ministry plans to support us in this project's implementation.

Outlook

We have made considerable progress in recent years in protecting birds on the Adriatic Flyway. Regular patrols have proved an effective means against illegal bird hunting and we will continue to support this work in the future. The high level of interest shown by our Balkan partner organizations in the workshops organized by EuroNatur confirms our resolve to continue to offer similar events as well as study trips in the coming year. Additionally, together with our partners we are planning on producing publications on the individual project areas, highlighting their significance, the threats they face as well as options for sustainable development. Saving the Ulcinj salt flats continues to be a major challenge. Together with our local partners, we are planning on developing and commencing a long-term project for the protection of the salt flats.



Partners: HDZPP, BIOM, DOPPS, BPSSS, CZIP, Naše ptice, Naša bastina, Hutovo Blato Nature Park, Lijepa naša, Galeb Hunting Association, APAWA, PPNEA, AOS, ASPBM, MES

Funding: Mava Foundation, CEPF, Turdus – bird and nature conservancy, Schaffhausen/CH, Ludwig Raue Memorial Fund, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors

Photo: Markus Essler - Brown bears (Ursus arctos)



Large mammal protection in Europe

Large mammals such as brown bears, lynx and wolves epitomize unspoiled nature. Together with our partners we are working to protect these fascinating animals and their habitats. In the marine sphere the Foundation focuses on the last remaining monk seals.

Brown bear

They are so big and strong and yet so much at risk: Brown bears are a protected species in most European countries, but that is not enough. Humans are still the biggest threat by far to these large furry mammals: Illegal killings and too great a number of legal culls are the primary factors that put at risk the survival of brown bears in Europe. Additional pressure on the species is exerted by the destruction and fragmentation of its habitats. In 2016 the focal areas of EuroNatur's brown bear protection programme once again included the Dinarides and the south-western Balkan Peninsula as well as the Carpathians and the Cantabrian Mountains in northern Spain.



Photo: Fritz Schimandl - Eurasian Lynx (Lynx lynx)

Lynx

Strength and suppleness characterize the lynx. The Eurasian lynx once roamed almost all of Europe. Today, sizeable natural lynx populations remain only in the northern and eastern parts of the continent. While the lynx is flexible when it comes to its habitat requirements, it does depend for its survival on unfragmented landscapes and sufficient prey, both of which have become rather rare in Europe. Poaching is also a massive problem for this species. The Balkan lynx, a subspecies of the Eurasian lynx, is critically endangered. Its survival and the protection of its last remaining habitats continued to be one of the focal areas of EuroNatur's activities in 2016.



Wolf

The wolf is a charismatic species, mythical, feared and revered. The grey hunter epitomizes wilderness and freedom. Due to its adaptability it is the most widespread large mammal species in the northern hemisphere. Nonetheless, wolves were eradicated and banished almost everywhere in Europe. The grey wolf was able to survive only in the east of the continent and in remote mountain regions. In its work, EuroNatur focuses primarily on Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic where wolves have managed to regain a foothold in the wild forests of eastern Poland, the Carpathians and up to the German border, thus allowing for the recolonization of eastern Germany.

Mediterranean monk seal

Mediterranean monk seals used to roam the entire Mediterranean Sea and adjacent marine regions. Today they are among the twelve most highly endangered species on the planet. Ecosystem destruction, marine pollution and overfishing have brought them to the brink of extinction. Undisturbed sandy and rocky shores have become rare throughout the monk seals' range. As a result, the seals not only lack valuable resting areas but it has also become difficult for them to rear their young. The currently largest colony, which is also the last truly sizeable surviving colony of Mediterranean monk seals, lives at Cap Blanc, a peninsula on the Mauritanian Atlantic coast. This is also the region on which EuroNatur focused its efforts in 2016.



Selected EuroNatur projects in 2016

Spain's bears at risk

Geographical location in Europe

The Cantabrian Mountains in northern Spain (Map p.5, No.1) are home to two brown bear populations: one in the west, the other in the east of the mountain range. Exchanges between the populations have been found to be more common than previously thought.

Status

For a long time, Fapas' activities primarily focused on the western brown bear population. As a result of persistent protection measures, the western population has steadily increased in numbers over the past twenty years. However, in the eastern part of the Cantabrian Mountains the bears continue to be at acute risk of extirpation. This is primarily due to illegal hunting. In the wake of the economic crisis, incidences of illegal persecution of brown bears have also once again increased in the western Cantabrian Mountains.

Objectives

Our aims are to prevent the extinction of brown bears in the Cantabrian Mountains and to allow them to once again expand their range.

Selected activities in 2016

Combating illegal hunting as well as population monitoring continued to be the foci of Fapas' work in 2016:

- Roughly 90 camera traps yielded well more than 3,000 photographs of brown bears. These photos are indispensable for assessments of the bears' population development. Moreover, Fapas was able to use the photos as evidence in seven cases of poaching in protected areas.
- Fapas staff travelled more than 2,500 kilometres on foot in search of bear tracks and collected almost 900 samples of evidence of the presence of bears. Their presence in the area is also something of a deterrent to poachers.
- Thanks to the increased support provided by EuroNatur, Fapas has for the first time been able to systematically deploy a sniffer dog trained to search for poisoned bait. The Belgian Alsatian named Mira has regularly accompanied Fapas staff on their patrol rounds in the brown bear region since last year.



Photo: Fapas - Sniffer dog Mira

Important achievements in 2016

- The brown bear population in the western part of the Cantabrian Mountains has seen a further increase. In 2016, Fapas staff counted at least 17 females and 31 cubs in the area they monitor – the highest number since records began!
- Fapas has greatly expanded their fieldwork in the eastern range. On their patrols in the Cantabrian Mountains, sniffer dog Mira has already been able to find and thus "neutralize" poisoned bait several times.

Outlook

Combating illegal hunting continues to be a focus of our conservation efforts in 2017. The fact that the western and eastern brown bear populations are demonstrably connected makes it all the more urgent to further intensify activities in the eastern part of the Cantabrian mountain range. Our aim is to transfer to the eastern range those strategies that have proved successful in the western range.

Partners: FAPAS

Funding: EuroNatur's donors and sponsors



Photo: Matthias Schlickhofer - Strambel



Romania: Bears and wild forests

Geographical location in Europe

Romanian Carpathian Mountains (Map p.5, No.23). The Carpathian brown bear population is one of the most significant bear populations in Europe. The Romanian Carpathian Mountains also host the European Union's largest remaining primary forests.

Status

Romania's forests and species-rich cultural landscapes are home to a stable brown bear population, estimated at several thousand individuals. However, precise data are scarce and it is not possible at present to provide reliable estimates. Regardless of the scarcity of reliable data however excessive cull quotas for bears have been set in recent years. On top of that there is a great deal of illegal hunting of bears. In the long-term, hunting poses the greatest threat for the survival of the Carpathian population. Other issues of concern are the fragmentation of their habitats by transport routes as well as logging in the Carpathian old-growth forests. An estimated two thirds of the EU's last remaining primary forests are located in Romania. But week after week thousands of trees are felled there, both legally and illegally. Vast areas of these more than 6,000 year old forest communities have already been cut down over the last ten years.

Objectives

Our aim is to maintain the relatively sizeable Carpathian brown bear population and pre-empt any drop in the population. We are working towards plugging existing knowledge gaps and preventing the destruction of the bears' habitats.

Selected activities in 2016

- In the autumn of 2016, Milvus in cooperation with other Romanian partners started a media campaign against trophy hunting. A petition started by Agent Green that calls for a ban on the hunting of brown bears, wolves, lynx and wildcats gained more than 11,000 supporters within just two days.
- In September 2016, Agent Green carried out studies on more than 1,900 ha of primary forest with a view to their inclusion in the "National Catalogue of Virgin Forests", a programme aimed at protecting the remaining primary forests.

Important achievements in 2016

- In October 2016, the Romanian Minister of the Environment enacted a strict ban on the hunting of brown bears, wolves, lynx and wildcats instead of the previously planned high cull quotas for large predators (including more than 500 brown bears).
- The 2016 EuroNatur Award went to Romanian primary forest conservationist Gabriel Paun, thus putting a valuable international spotlight on the threat to the Carpathian primary forests.

Outlook

While it is not clear how long the hunting ban will hold under the pressure exerted by hunting associations and hunting tour operators, it gives the animals a much-needed break. Now is the time to set up a scientifically sound population survey of bears in Romania and also to combat illegal bear hunting. With the start of the "SaveParadiseForests" campaign we aim to alert the public to the acute threat faced by the Romanian old-growth forests and work towards the introduction of improved protection legislation (www.saveparadiseforests.eu).

Partners: Milvus, Agent Green

Funding: Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection, Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, Christian Martin Stiftung, Maiores Foundation, Pancivis Foundation, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors



Poland's wolves face political headwind

Status

Thanks to intensive protection measures, Poland's wolf population has seen continuous growth in recent years. In the east of the country, the 'grey hunters' have now colonized all suitable habitats and from there they are also increasingly expanding into the west of Poland. Nonetheless, the species' status in Poland has clearly deteriorated since 2015: The electoral success of the conservative PIS party and the resultant restructuring of key governmental positions has had a negative impact on the cooperation between public authorities and our NGO partners. There are attempts on the part of the government to weaken provisions for the protection of wolves and sadly some of them have met with success.

Objectives

Our aims are to protect the existing wolf population in Poland and to accomplish a westward expansion of the wolves' range within Poland. Additionally, we endeavour to raise the level of acceptance for wolves in the general public, thus setting a counterpoint to the Polish government's adverse ambitions.

Selected activities in 2016

- The NGO Wilk prepared a report which documents the very beneficial role played by wolves for the entire ecosystem; the report's publication and dissemination gained much publicity.
- In a series of seminars, Wilk trained seventy forestry personnel working in governmental forest-environmental education centres all over Poland in educating both children and adults on wolves and their role in the forest. They have thus trained a sizeable number of multipliers.
- In order to further foster coexistence between wolves and keepers of livestock, Wilk conducted inspections of livestock killed by wolves, advised regional environmental authorities, and published a revised edition of their manual for protecting livestock from wolves.

Important achievements in 2016

- Intensive PR work and education of livestock keepers are yielding successes: Despite the fact that the wolf population in western Poland increased to 56 packs in 2016, neither wolf kills of livestock nor illegal killings of wolves increased.

- In 2016, the Polish Animal Welfare Act was renegotiated. The wolf was not taken off the list of protected species, despite attempts to this effect by the Polish hunters' association and some of the municipalities.

Outlook

We will continue to work for the protection of wolves in our neighbouring country and will adapt our efforts to the difficult political context. We will continue to increase our awareness-raising and PR work, among other activities.

Partners: MRI, Wilk,

Conservation organization "Workshop for all Beings"

Funding: Lappat Fund, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors, Elisabeth Seifert-Becker's endowment fund for the protection of wolves in memory of Viktoria Neumann, Emilie and Franz Seifert



Cross-border wolf protection

Geographical location in Europe

Western Beskids (part of the Western Carpathians, Map p.5, No.5) in the tri-border area along the junction of Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, as well as Central Slovakia.

Status

Despite denser settlement and intensive land-use for forestry and tourism, the Western Carpathians continue to host wolves. However, statutory requirements with regard to wolf protection differ widely between the constituent countries. While wolves enjoy strict protection in Poland and the Czech Republic, it is entirely legal to shoot them in Slovakia. Given that wolf packs know no national borders, this puts at risk not only the Slovakian wolf populations but also impacts on those in the neighbouring countries, i.e. Poland and the Czech Republic. Moreover, wolf habitats in the Western Beskids are under threat from numerous infrastructure projects.

Objectives

Our aims are to expand the knowledge base on wolves in the tri-border area along the junction of Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia and to achieve transboundary wolf protection. Moreover we are working on improving acceptance of the presence of wolves among the population at large.

Selected activities in 2016

- We need evidence of the effect of wolf culls in Slovakia on the wolf populations in the tri-border area. Regular field work was undertaken between May and September 2016 with a view to recording wolf population data and to confirm the transboundary territories of Western Carpathians packs. Among other activities this work involved the use of camera and video traps.
- Regular disturbances by motocross riders in three Natura 2000 sites in the Western Beskids were notified to the authorities and charges were pressed.
- Collaborative efforts with foresters and hunters in a study area in central Slovakia yielded the first reliable data on the status of the country's wolf population.

Important achievements in 2016

- The fieldwork results obtained in the tri-border area to date were utilized by the competent conservation authorities in Poland and the Czech Republic respectively in talks with their Slovakian counterparts and convinced the latter that wolf management in Slovakia must be improved.
- The Slovakian government established a no-cull zone along its borders with Poland and the Czech Republic and also banned the shooting of wolves in selected Natura 2000 sites.

- At 70 heads, CWS proposed the lowest cull quota for wolves in Slovakia to date and was able to get this figure accepted.
- Hnutí Duha was able to effect a speed limit on sections of roads located in the Beskidy protected landscape. The number of car accidents involving wolves has declined as a result.

Outlook

Our aim is to keep on plugging the still existing knowledge gaps and use the information obtained to substantiate arguments for a complete halt to the shooting of wolves in Slovakia in the long-term. At the same time we will continue our highly intensive work on measures for the protection of wolf habitats in the tri-border area as well as our "pro wolf" PR work.

Partners: Hnutí Duha, Wilk, CWS

Funding: EuroNatur's donors and sponsors



Balkan lynx – a rare cat

Geographical location in Europe

Mountainous border regions as part of the Balkan Green Belt between Albania and Macedonia as well as between Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo.

Status

The Balkan lynx, a subspecies of the Eurasian lynx, has been brought to the brink of extinction as a result of habitat destruction, direct persecution, and reduction of its prey base due to hunting. According to recent estimates the Balkan lynx population has been reduced to fewer than 50 individuals. Aside from the Mavrovo National Park, the Munella Mountains in northern Albania (Map p.5, No.15) are among the species' last documented refuges. And it is in these mountains, out of all places, that the last remaining forests are being cut down and burned down at breathtaking speed, whilst the Mavrovo National Park (Map p.5, No.15) is under acute threat from a number of hydropower dam projects (please refer to pp.14–17).

Objectives

In order to afford the lynx effective protection we must sustainably safeguard their last remaining habitats. The long-term objective is a coherent network of protected areas on

the Balkan Peninsula which is managed with a view to the needs of the Balkan lynx and its prey. To this end, we must further develop and strengthen our local partner organizations, plug knowledge gaps as to the Balkan lynx's distribution, and raise greater awareness in the political sphere and amongst the general population as to the species' need for protection. Given that the threats to the Balkan lynx are underlain by complex sociocultural causes, there is much more at stake than just the protection of this sub-species.

Selected activities in 2016

- The countrywide hunting ban imposed in Albania in March 2014 ended in 2016. We initiated the establishment of a single issue alliance composed of three Albanian NGOs for the purposes of lobbying for an extension to the hunting ban. Among other activities, the alliance presented a joint position paper to the government.
- In Macedonia we continued the educational programme started in 2015 which aims at raising awareness for the conservation needs of the Balkan lynx. In 2016 the campaign, with its specially developed teaching modules, reached a total of 400 pupils in seven schools.

- In the region around the Munella Mountains we conducted a broad consultation process, with a view to informing the local communities about the demonstrably high nature value of Munella and to explain the outline of the borders of the planned protected area.

Important achievements in 2016

- In June 2016 the countrywide hunting ban in Albania was extended for a period of five years.
- The consultation process has clearly shown that there is strong support at the local level for a Munella protected area.

Outlook

We will primarily focus our efforts on the two regions proven to host subpopulations of the Balkan lynx, i.e. Albania and Macedonia. We will use trainings and pilot projects to lay the foundations needed to effectively combat illegal hunting and, in the long-term, achieve sustainable wildlife management with a view to protecting the lynx and its prey. Moreover we will lobby for the Munella Mountains to be designated as a protected area at long last.

Partners: MES, PPNEA, CZIP, Finch, ERA, Kora

Funding: Mava Foundation, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors



Protection for the Mediterranean monk seal

Geographical location in Europe

Mauritanian Atlantic coast, Cap Blanc peninsula. The six kilometre long "Costa de las Focas" seal reserve is located approximately ten kilometres north-west of Mauritania's second-largest city Nouadhibou.

Status

The Mediterranean monk seal is the only seal species living in the Mediterranean Sea. Once widespread in the Mediterranean, its population is today reduced to isolated sub-populations occupying island groups in the Aegean Sea and Northwest African coastal areas. Cap Blanc hosts the world's largest colony of Mediterranean monk seals. As a result of many years of intensive protection measures the population is on a steady path of recovery and has now grown to 280 seals.

Objectives

Our aim is to continuously improve the monk seals' natural resource base and to minimize threats to the species so as to allow the colony at Cap Blanc to increase and ensure its long-term survival.

Selected activities in 2016

- CBD Habitat staff patrolled the seal reserve twice daily on average in order to minimize disturbances resulting from the presence of fishers and shell collectors.
- Monitoring and surveillance using fixed cameras in the caves used by the colony for rearing their young were continued. Video surveillance helps to monitor the colony's population development and allows for pups to be saved that have gotten into difficulties. In 2016 in a dramatic rescue mission CBD Habitat staff freed a young seal that had gotten stuck between rocks and would have starved to death had the conservationists not intervened.

Important achievements in 2016

- The Cap Blanc monk seal population continued to grow in 2016. A total of 82 pups were born, more than ever before since the introduction of surveillance.
- Thanks to regular ranger patrols, the levels of disturbances caused by fishers and shell collectors again remained very low in 2016 in the sensitive zone where the caves are located that are used by the colony to rear their pups. Infringements are now being prosecuted: in the reporting year, a penalty was issued the first time against the captain of a fishing boat that had illegally entered the reserve.

- As a result of the strong growth of the Cap Blanc monk seal colony, the species' IUCN conservation status has been updated from "critically endangered" to "endangered" as part of a revision of the IUCN Red List.

Outlook

In addition to Mauritania, Greece has once again moved more sharply into the focus of our protection efforts. The Corfu coast is to be checked for monk seals and for caves that are potentially suitable for raising offspring. It is possible that the island is a stepping stone for the further expansion of the monk seal population in the Mediterranean Sea. It is not a great distance from Corfu to the rugged eastern Adriatic coastline, which in theory is an ideal habitat for this endangered marine mammal.

Partners: CBD Habitat

Funding: EuroNatur's donors and sponsors

Photo: Kerstin Sauer - Flax (L. usitatissimum)



European Nature Directives remain untouched

Be it biodiversity decline or climate change, they both have a common root: the unbridled overexploitation of our resources. EuroNatur as an advocate of nature is fighting internationally for effective conservation and agricultural policies. Moreover, we are pushing for an energy transition that gives due consideration to aspects of nature conservation.

The anxious uncertainty as to the future of the European Nature Directives ended in 2016: In early December the European Commission confirmed that the EU Birds and Habitats Directives are to be neither watered down nor weakened. This is something we had fought for with dogged persistence. Among other activities, EuroNatur in November 2015 adopted a joint position paper together with nineteen other member organizations of the European Habitat Forum, in which we called not only for maintaining the EU Birds and Habitats Directives but also for more rigorous implementation than has been seen to date. This is also the position we took in the context of an online consultation undertaken by the EU Commission, a position that was shared by roughly half a million EU citizens.

For almost two years the two core European conservation policy tools had been assessed during the so-called "fitness check". According to the EU Commission, the aim of this assessment was to provide an analysis of whether the

EU legislation in force is suited to achieving the European Union's ambitious environmental and conservation objectives. However, conservationists, including EuroNatur, had feared that lobby groups could use the process to lower existing standards. The results of the EU internal study as published in July 2016 were unequivocal and did not really surprise us: the Directives per se are 'fit for purpose'. The EU does not lack laws, programmes or political declarations but it is short on concerted activity at all levels of political action. In response, the EU Commission decided to develop a concrete action plan in 2017 to improve the implementation of the European Nature Directives. EuroNatur urgently calls for the necessary funding to finally be made available. Sufficient financial support for the management of Natura 2000 sites is critical. So far the EU Commission has not made available earmarked funding for site management. Moreover, accompanying measures in other policy areas are needed.

Partner: EHF

Funding: EuroNatur's donors



Agricultural policy: The black sheep

The European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), in particular, must focus much more strongly on biodiversity conservation than it currently does. Therefore, in March 2016 EuroNatur together with more than 100 European non-governmental organizations published an open letter to EU Commission President Juncker, calling for a fundamental review of the CAP. In Germany, EuroNatur together with the German family farmer's association 'Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft (AbL)' coordinated a broad societal alliance's work on CAP reform. Numerous studies have shown that intensive agriculture is a major cause of species decline as well as of soil and water pollution. Moreover, scientists predict that by 2050 the farming sector will account for one third of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. Other problems include animal welfare issues and the sector's adverse impacts on agricultural markets in developing countries. EuroNatur will continue to fight for a greener and more equitable agricultural policy. The EU Commission's work on CAP reform with a view to the 2021-2028 financial period commenced in early 2017.

Partners: AbL, Agricultural Platform as well as other farming and conservation associations

Funding: BfN with funds provided by BMUB, EuroNatur's donors

Poland: Energy transition from the bottom up

The development of regenerative, decentralized energy structures in Poland is still in its infancy. For this reason, EuroNatur provided intensive advice to the Marshal's Office of the province of Podlasie (Map p.5, No.4) for a period of three years with the aim of achieving a more efficient and considerate utilization of resources in the region. Concrete pilot projects, such as the country's first decentralized oil press for producing plant oils, were initiated with the active participation of the local people and municipalities. It is a blueprint for making Poland's farming sector less dependent on fossil fuel. At the same time, our aim was to cultivate the necessary receptiveness at the political level for an energy transition from the bottom up, i.e. for the establishment of decentralized economic and supply structures based on renewable energy sources.

The efforts of the last few years are bearing fruit: The Podlaskie Voivodship now expressly wishes to become a model region for decentralized, resource-efficient energy supply concepts. In 2016, the first building blocks were put in place to address the lack of necessary technical expertise at the local level and to further increase receptiveness for a bottom-up energy transition. In the Hajnowka District, workshops were held with all the area's Mayors with a view to developing an energy and climate protection plan designed to lower greenhouse gas emissions. In two schools of the Lapy municipality, the first ever German-Polish secondary level student exchange was held on the topic of energy. The teaching materials, some of which were interactive in their design, dealt with energy-saving measures and the increasing use of regional, regenerative energy sources among other topics. The students showed great interest in these materials.

Partners: Bialystok Marshal's Office, Politechnika Bialystok, the town of Lapy, Energievision Frankenwald, the town of Wunsiedel and the Wunsiedel Department of Public Works

Funding: UBA with funds provided by BMUB



Brandenburg: The Living Desert

Brandenburg (Map p.5, No.3) hosts a captivatingly diverse mosaic of habitats that offer a home to numerous endangered animal species such as the great bustard or the Eurasian otter. EuroNatur looks after sites of high ecological value in the scarcely populated German Federal State, sites the ownership of which has gradually been transferred from the federal government to conservation organizations since the year 2000. The aim is to protect these sites from increasing land-use

pressure. In 2016 a particular focus was put on the "Bugker Sahara" which is located approximately 75 km south-east of Berlin. As part of the LIFE "Sandrasen" project, the existing pine monoculture, which is species-poor and not site-appropriate, is successively being opened up with a view to creating extensive, open sandy sites that are free from tree roots. This will allow for more sunlight to reach the ground which in turn attracts rare, thermophilous species of fauna and flora: Grey hair-grass and shepherdscrews as well as smooth snakes and sand wolf spiders have already returned to the site.

Partners: Nature Park administrations at Dahme-Heideseen, Märkische Schweiz, and Schlaubetal; German Federation for Nature Conservation (NABU) - Märkische Schweiz regional association; Stiftung Naturschutzfonds Brandenburg; local conservation groups and farmers

Funding: EuroNatur Trust for Eastern Germany (thanks to generous financial endowments this trust now holds approximately EUR 370,000), EuroNatur's donors and sponsors

Senne: Near-natural cultural landscape

The extensive Senne heathlands (Map p.5, No.2) at the foot of the Teutoburg Forest are a paradise for species of open habitats and a haven for walkers. For many years now, EuroNatur has been supporting the "Paderborn-Senne Biological Station" in their work to protect and maintain this valuable little gem and the diversity of species it holds. Regional livestock breeds, such as the Heidschnucken (a northern German moorland sheep), contribute their invaluable services

to the landscape management efforts. The Senne Heidschnucken sheep enterprise is part of the Biological Station. It is part-financed from the sale of the high quality sheepmeat it produces. A brochure published in 2016 which contains a collection of innovative recipes does not only promise culinary delights but it also contributes to fostering a cyclical regional economy and to ensuring that conservation grazing can be carried out in the future. One of the characteristic bird species of this Westphalian cultural landscape is the Northern lapwing. It takes the staff at the Biological Station a great deal

of effort to protect this dapper bird in cooperation with local farmers. To this end, they mark lapwing nests on arable land using wooden stakes which allows farmers to avoid the nests while cultivating their land. The overwhelming majority of the farmers support this project and as a result a total of 117 lapwing chicks hatched in 2016 – a very positive outcome.

Partner: Paderborn-Senne Biological Station

Funding: Gelsenwasser, Stadtwerke Bielefeld GmbH (public utility), EuroNatur's donors

Photo: EuroNatur – Ulcinj salt flats



EuroNatur's public face: Media and PR work

Cinematic: The drama of the Ulcinj salt flats

The short film "The Endangered Treasure of Ulcinj" employs impressive imagery to call for the protection of the Ulcinj salt flats (watch it at kurzlink.de/ulcinjsalina). The important resting area for migratory birds on the Eastern Adriatic is earmarked for mass tourism development (please refer to pp.20-21). International attention is essential to saving this unique natural and cultural heritage. The journalist Norbert Mappes-Niediek in his article on "The disgraceful acts of the Montenegrin government" (published in German only) examines the drama surrounding the attempts to save this paradise for birds on the Adriatic and unsparingly reveals how the Montenegrin government profits from the situation, destroys nature, and fools EU officials. The article was published in the Frankfurter Rundschau among other news outlets.

EuroNatur Award for protector of virgin forests

For many years now the Romanian biologist Gabriel Paun has demonstrated his outstanding personal commitment to the protection of the Carpathian virgin forests and has brought to light cases of large-scale destruction in these forests (please refer to p.25). In October 2016, he was awarded the

EuroNatur Award, an honour that also puts the international spotlight on the ecological drama taking place in the Romanian Carpathian Mountains. Numerous Romanian media reported on Gabriel Paun's receipt of the award, as did supra-regional German newspapers. One such article was published in the Frankfurter Rundschau and describes Paun's tireless commitment to the fight against the exploitation of the Carpathian forests under the headline of "Gabriel and Goliath".

Tweet and watch nature

Since March 2016, EuroNatur has also been present on Twitter (twitter.com/euronaturorg) where it shares news on the foundations' conservation projects. Under the slogan "Watching nature generates knowledge and is fun!", the Internet platform naturgucker.de invites users to share their own observations of nature, upload their images to a central archive and to engage in exchanges with other users. The archive already contains more than seven million observations and is growing steadily. More than 31,000 active users have been publishing their observations on thousands of species of fauna, flora and fungi on naturgucker.de. This forum is a novel instrument for collecting data for nature conservation purposes, as it makes publicly accessible many observations that had previously only been documented in private archives. EuroNatur is a cooperation partner of the initiative and presents selected EuroNatur project areas at www.naturgucker.de/euronatur.

Paddling for the Blue Heart of Europe

To draw public attention to both the Balkan rivers' beauty and the threats they face is one of the primary objectives of the "Save the Blue Heart of Europe" campaign (please refer to pp.16-17). Through activities, presentations and press conferences we were able to further increase public attention to the issue. Prominent media outlets reported on the Balkan rivers, including the TV channels ZDF and MDR as well as DELO, the Slovenian daily newspaper with the largest circulation. In January 2016 the "Berlin River Film Festival" was held, initiated by the 'Grüne Liga' network of ecological movements. More than 30 films highlighted the ecological, economic and cultural importance of free-flowing rivers. EuroNatur was present at the festival and reported on the planned 'dam tsunami' on the Balkans and on the efforts to save the valuable Balkan rivers from the impending destruction. The event was attended by close to 300 people.

Between April and May 2016, 500 kayakers from all over Europe travelled on the most beautiful and most strongly threatened Balkan rivers. Never before had there been an action like this in Europe. Under the leadership of the former Olympic athlete Rok Rozman the kayakers protested against the destruction of the Blue Heart of Europe and drew attention to the tender beauty of this natural treasure. Activities were held on selected river segments in order to support local initiatives in their fight against the dam projects. The "Balkan Rivers Tour" generated a broad response in national as well as international media.

Photo: Hans Glader - Wild Geese (Grey lag goose)



Economic situation in the 2016 financial year

Donors form the basis

In 2016, EuroNatur Foundation's regular donors, sponsors and legacy donors continued to provide the financial footing for our tangible conservation efforts in Europe as well as for political lobbying, awareness-raising and environmental education. Once again, EuroNatur also attracted substantial financial support for project implementation from private foundations and associations as well as public sector funding, most notably from the Mava Foundation, the Dr. Manfred and Gudrun Keim Fund, the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU), Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND), the Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, the Bristol Foundation, the Christian Martin Stiftung, the Pancivis Foundation, the Fondation pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature, the Maiores Foundation, the Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung for Nature

Conservation and Environmental Protection, the Federal Environment Ministry (BMUB), the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), and the European Commission. Moreover, EuroNatur's work was financially supported by certain commercial enterprises in 2016. These included i.a. the utilities company Gelsenwasser and the Bielefeld public utilities.

Income and expenditure headings based on DZI specifications

The income and expenditure headings used for the purposes of this activity report correspond to the prescribed specifications as part of the guidelines for the DZI (German Central Institute for Social Issues) Seal of Approval. The headings therefore diverge somewhat from the customary breakdown set out in the Handelsgesetzbuch (German Commercial Code), especially in the profit and loss

account. Amongst the criteria assessed by DZI are two important threshold values, i.e. the share of expenditure on advertising and administration in total relevant expenditure, and the ratio of expenditure on advertising to total income from donations. Not all expenditure is included for the purpose of calculating the share of administrative expenditure: Expenditure on portfolio management is only taken into consideration if its total is a negative amount. Commercial activities are not considered at all.

DZI Seal of Approval

In October 2016, EuroNatur Foundation was again awarded the DZI (German Central Institute for Social Issues) Seal of Approval. EuroNatur had applied for the seal in August 2016 based on its 2015 annual accounts. The result of the DZI assessment of EuroNatur Foundation was a positive one: It confirmed that we meet the seven DZI Seal of Approval standards (see p.43).



Appropriate proportion of advertising and administrative expenses

Compared to the previous year, EuroNatur Foundation saw its income increase considerably by € 3,469k to a total of € 6,315k (see p.41). Additionally, we received € 96k in endowments (€ 362k in the previous year). Endowments (donations towards the Foundation's capital stock) are not shown in the profit and loss account. However, the DZI includes endowments in the total income. For the purposes of the DZI calculations therefore the total income was € 6,411k. Total income from donations including endowments in 2016 was € 4,085k, an increase of € 2,761k. This considerable increase was essentially due to one very large bequest. Relevant total expenditure for calculating the proportion of administrative expenses in 2016 (total expenditure minus expenditure on portfolio management) stood at € 3,082k, up by € 542k compared to the previous year. Our projections for 2016 show that EuroNatur Foundation spent approximately 18.2 % of relevant total expenditure on advertising and administration. DZI will assess our results at a later point in time. The institute

considers appropriate a proportion of expenses for advertising and administration of up to 20 %. The previous year's figure was 18.7 %.

In 2016, the proportion of advertising expenditure in total income from donations was 7.1 % according to our own calculations. For 2015, DZI had calculated a figure of 17.3 %. The proportion of all expenditure on advertising, which according to DZI definitions also includes general PR work, must not exceed 30 % of total income from donations.

Individual sources of revenue

There was a very considerable increase in 2016 in revenue from donations (not including endowments and fines) (+ € 3,036k) compared to the previous year which was due to significantly higher donations from bequests (+ € 3,029k). Approximately two thirds of all revenue in 2016 came from donations. Third-party grants for concrete project implementation increased once again in 2016 (+ € 365k). This increase was almost exclusively due to greater financial support received from private foundations and associations. EuroNatur Foundation's non-profit tax-exempt commercial activities saw a significant decrease in turnover (- € 103k) compared to 2015. Interest and capital gains were significantly higher than in the previous year due to the growth in capital stock as well as due to major nonrecurring items (+ € 177k).



Expenditure in detail

Compared to 2015, EuroNatur Foundation increased its total expenditure on projects, campaigns and education by € 456k. Close to 80 % of total expenditure therefore went directly into work on projects, campaigns and education. There was a nominal increase in expenditure on advertising, general PR work and administration in 2016 compared to 2015 (+ € 86k). The share of expenditure under these headings in total relevant expenditure decreased and now stands at approximately 18.2 %, which according to DZI is an acceptable proportion of expenditure for general PR work, advertising and administration. Purely administrative expenditure actually accounted for less than 9 % of total relevant expenditure, with advertising and public relations expenditure accounting for approximately 4 % and 5 % respectively in 2016.

Successful conclusion to the 2016 financial year

EuroNatur Foundation concluded the 2016 financial year with a positive operating result of € 3,110k. € 8k were withdrawn from project-specific reserves for site protection in Brandenburg. Revenue of € 1k from ecological forest conversion was added to project-specific reserves for site protection in Brandenburg. Revenue from bequests and endowments was largely added to the revenue reserves (€ 2,456k). The amount of € 121k was transferred to the "Umschichtungsrücklage" (special reserve

for gains from transactions to cover potential losses of future transactions) which was established as a safeguard against potential risks associated with financial assets. A further € 540k were added to the revenue reserves. These additions thus further strengthened the capital stock and significantly added to the revenue reserves. Overall, EuroNatur Foundation was able to strengthen its financial foundation in 2016 like never before.



Notes on the 2016 Statement of Financial Position

Compared to the previous year, 2016 saw an increase of € 2,779k in EuroNatur Foundation's total assets which now stand at € 9,585k. At the end of the financial year, non-current assets (fixed assets) stood at € 6,383k, whereas current assets stood at € 3,202k. Fixed assets increased by € 3,205k compared to 2015, while current assets, i.e. primarily liquid funds, decreased by € 426k. Accounts receivable increased by € 108k to a level of € 220k. These are all considered recoverable and € 212k are due within the next twelve months.

At the end of the 2016 financial year, the foundation's capital stood at € 5,481k, i.e. € 2,613k higher than in the previous year. Compared to the previous year, equity increased by € 3,206k to a total of € 7,706k. Revenue reserves increased considerably compared to 2015 and stood at € 2,225k (+ € 593k) at year's end. The liabilities of 1,716k primarily consist of project grants already received but not yet spent in 2016.

Economic development in recent years

EuroNatur Foundation's statement of its financial position clearly shows that recent years have not only brought successes in the organization's conservation endeavours but that its work has also been successful in economic terms. Over the past five years, i.e. since 2011, total assets increased by € 5,704k and thus more than doubled by far. Over the past ten years, i.e. since 2006, total assets even increased by € 7,642k and thus almost quintupled. The increase in equity, i.e. the foundation's core capital including endowments and revenue reserves has been similarly positive. These developments demonstrate that EuroNatur is on a secure financial footing and has been able to significantly improve its financial position in recent years.



Planned giving for European nature

A further strengthening of EuroNatur's asset base is of great importance for the foundation's independence and performance as a successful advocate for nature in Europe. The increase in the foundation's capital creates planning certainty and independence. Endowments and bequests therefore provide immensely valuable support to us and are a great sign of confidence, confidence that we endeavour to honour with our commitment. In 2016, we once again transferred almost all endowments and yields from bequests to the foundation's capital stock. This has further strengthened EuroNatur Foundation's financial position. We expect that revenues from portfolio management will increase in coming years.

Bequests and legacies in 2016

We are particularly indebted to those who in 2016 bequeathed funds to us upon their deaths and we honour their memory:

- Walter Dempfle, Friedrichshafen
- Heinz Geldermann, Lübeck
- Barbara Kattentidt, Erlangen
- Roland Horst Helmut Löschner, Erftstadt
- Elisabeth Katharina Marques Fernandes Pardal, Düsseldorf
- Gerth Richter, Klingenberg am Main
- Karl Hermann Peter Wirts, Bonn

We are especially grateful to Mr. Wirts for the extraordinarily high legacy he bequeathed to EuroNatur.



Photo: Gunther Willinger - Frozen Lake, Constance



Dependent foundations and named funds

In 2016, EuroNatur managed three dependent foundations and three earmarked named funds. The named funds' capital (€ 485k) and the capital of the dependent foundations (€ 2,143k) remained unchanged compared to the previous financial year. In the reporting year, yields from dependent foundations continued to benefit EuroNatur projects.

- Dr. Manfred and Gudrun Keim Fund
- Ludwig Raue Memorial Fund
- Lappat Fund
- EuroNatur Fund for Eastern Germany
- EuroNatur Fund for the Protection of Migratory Birds
- Elisabeth Seifert-Becker's endowment fund for the protection of wolves in memory of Viktoria Neumann, Emilie and Franz Seifert

Working together for Europe's nature

EuroNatur's successes in nature conservation in Europe in 2016 could only be achieved with the support provided by our donors, sponsors and legacy donors as well as providers of grants and commercial sponsors. We are most grateful for your support!

Statement of Financial Position as at 31.12.2016

ASSETS		2016 "000 €		2015 "000 €	
A. Fixed assets		6,383		3,178	
	I. Intangible assets + tangible assets		1,674		53
	II. Financial assets		4,709		3,125
B. Current assets		3,202		3,628	
	I. Stocks		11		17
	II. Accounts receivable and other assets		220		112
	III. Liquid funds, short-term securities		2,971		3,499
TOTALS		9,585		6,806	

LIABILITIES		2016 "000 €		2015 "000 €	
A. Equity		7,706		4,500	
	I. Foundation's capital				
	Core capital		77		77
	Endowments		5,404		2,791
	II. Revenue reserves		2,225		1,632
B. Provisions		163		107	
C. Liabilities		1,716		2,199	
TOTALS		9,585		6,806	

Profit and Loss Statement for 2016

Revenue according to DZI	2016		2015		Expenditure according to DZI	2016		2015	
	" 000 €	%	" 000 €	%		" 000 €	%	" 000 €	%
Cash donations	868	13.75	855	30.04	Expenditure on project aid				
Donations in kind	24	0,38	30	1,05	Staff-related expenditure	382	11.92	397	15.47
Bequests	3,090	48.93	61	2.14	Administrative and other expenditure	1,663	51.89	1,244	48.46
Fines	7	0.11	16	0.56	Expenditure on project monitoring and assistance				
					Staff-related expenditure	228	7.11	208	8.10
Subtotal (total income from donations excluding endowments)	3,989		962		Administrative and other expenditure	36	1.12	22	0.86
					Expenditure on campaigns, education, public awareness				
Government grants	314	4.97	304	10.68	Staff-related expenditure	153	4.77	141	5.49
Grants from other organizations	1,584	25.08	1,229	43.18	Administrative and other expenditure	60	1.87	54	2.10
Nonprofit tax-exempt and taxable commercial activity	28	0.44	131	4.60	Expenditure on advertising and general PR work				
Interest and capital gains	358	5.67	181	6.36	Staff-related expenditure	160	4.99	104	4.05
Other revenue	42	0.67	39	1.37	Administrative and other expenditure	128	3.99	125	4.87
					Expenditure on administration				
Total revenue	6,315	100	2,846	100	Staff-related expenditure	196	6.12	186	7.25
Withdrawals from revenue reserves	8		4		Administrative and other expenditure	76	2.37	59	2.30
	6,323		2,850		Expenditure on portfolio management				
					Portfolio management	123	3.84	27	1.05
					Total expenditure	3,205	100.00	2,567	100.00
					Transfers to the Fund's capital stock	2,456		61	
					Transfers to revenue reserves	541		128	
					Transfers to „Umschichtungsrücklage“ (special reserve for gains from transactions to cover potential losses of future transactions)	121		94	
						6,323		2,850	

Dealing with potential risks

For a non-profit foundation, EuroNatur Foundation's capital stock is relatively slim. Therefore the organization is urgently dependent on donations and third-party grants in so as to be able to discharge its mandate as an advocate of nature in Europe. We are aware of the fact that with this funding comes great responsibility and day in, day out we work towards using the funds as efficiently as possible. The manner in which these grants and donations are passed on to partner organizations in the east and south of Europe is also a sensitive issue, one that is predicated on a very good network of contacts built up over many years. Moreover, a multi-level control system is essential for the correct assessment of and effective response to risks. Risk mitigation measures must also be adopted for capital investments.

Potential risks and the measures we take to avert them

Financial and economic crises

The global financial and economic crisis which began in 2008, and the impacts of which are still being felt, has shown once again that our lives' economic circumstances can change swiftly and dramatically. The fact that there

is no interest without risk has definitely become apparent since the onset of the financial crisis in 2008. In this light it is becoming increasingly difficult to find some middle ground between security and financial returns. Charting our course in this respect we abide by the following principles: EuroNatur Foundation invests its equity capital in low-risk funds, taking into account ethical and environmental criteria (please refer to the chapter on "Transparency"). Moreover, reserves are built up in order to be able to even out fluctuations in revenues. The special reserve for gains from transactions which can in turn be used to cover potential losses of future transactions ("Umschichtungsrücklage") was increased in 2016. It is a safeguard against potentially required depreciation of fixed assets.

Lack of competent and trustworthy partner organizations

EuroNatur Foundation has very consciously not opted for a Europe-wide network of offices with full-time employees, thus eliminating the considerable administrative expenditure such a network would incur. We are primarily concerned with cooperating with existing conservation organizations that are well connected in their local areas and are successful in their endeavours. In many countries of southern and eastern Europe, powerful non-profit and independent conservation organizations are few and far between. The lack of competent and trustworthy partners limits our options. It is for this reason that EuroNatur invests in the systematic development and strengthening of civil society in southern and eastern

Europe. EuroNatur's project work is always predicated on cooperation with a local partner organization. If there is no such partner organization in a particular region, it is reason enough for EuroNatur not to engage.

Misappropriation of funds

We have self-imposed strict rules on budgetary control. All outward payments are checked for mathematical and factual correctness. Payment orders are always subject to the "Two-man rule". Target-performance comparisons are carried out on a monthly basis, allowing for swift detection of potential irregularities. Our 2016 annual accounts were audited by the independent auditing and tax accounting firm WISTA AG and endorsed with an unqualified audit certificate.

Inefficiencies and ineffectiveness in project work

We regularly scrutinize our internal processes, which allows us to continuously increase our efficiency. We also analyse the work of our partner organizations and work with them to find solutions to increase their efficiency. Our partners' statements of expenditure are checked by the project liaison person for factual accuracy and by the accounting department for financial accuracy. All statements of expenditure are submitted to the managing director for approval prior to funds being released. In order to increase the efficiency of our work we conduct staff development and training, in terms of both content and methodology, for ourselves and our partners on an ongoing basis.



Photo: Boris Jordan - Amöneburg



Transparency – One of EuroNatur's important tenets

EuroNatur was again awarded the DZI Seal of Approval

In 2016, EuroNatur Foundation was once again awarded the DZI (German Central Institute for Social Issues) Seal of Approval. It will expire at the end of the third quarter of 2017. The Seal of Approval certifies that, amongst other things, EuroNatur meets the DZI's seven standards as follows: EuroNatur conducts its work in keeping with its statutes; the organization's management and oversight are adequately structured, clearly separated and are being exercised effectively; in our solicitation of donations and public relations work we provide information in a clear, truthful, factual and open manner; we openly and comprehensively report on our work, structures and finances; remuneration is paid taking into consideration the organization's charitable status, qualifications, levels of responsibility, and industry pay standards; the procurement and use of funding as well as the organization's financial status are traceability documented and adequately verified; the proportion of funds spent on advertising and administration in 2016 was at an appropriate level in accordance with the DZI standards ("appropriate" = 10 % to 20 %). The effectiveness of the organization's spending is monitored and results are documented and published.

Initiative for transparency in civil society

EuroNatur has been a signatory to Transparency International Germany's "Initiative Transparente Zivilgesellschaft" (Initiative for transparency in civil

society) since 2010. Signatories to the initiative voluntarily commit to publishing ten particular items of information about their organization on their homepage. These include i.a. their statutes, the names of essential decision-makers, and information on how they are funded, how they use their funding, and their personnel structure.

Auditing

In 2016, EuroNatur once again voluntarily submitted to an audit of its annual accounts by an auditor. The auditing and tax accounting firm WISTA AG audited EuroNatur Foundation's 2016 annual accounts in accordance with Par. 317 of the German Commercial Code (HGB) and in accordance with the accepted standards for the review of financial statements as set out by the Institute of Public Auditors in Germany (IDW) and endorsed the accounts with an unqualified audit certificate. An extract from the audit certificate states the following:

„We have audited the annual financial statements – consisting of the balance sheet, profit and loss account, and an appendix – taking into account the accounts and the management report of EuroNatur – Stiftung Europäisches Naturerbe, Radolfzell, for the fiscal year from January 1 to December 31, 2016.

In our opinion, based on the information obtained during our audit, the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant regulatory requirements and convey, in accordance with the principles of proper accounting,

a true and fair view of the Foundation's net assets, liabilities, financial position and results of operations. The position statement complies with the statutory provisions and the supplementary provisions of the Foundation's statutes and it is consistent with the knowledge we have gained in the course of the audit. The position statement, as a whole, provides an accurate picture of the Foundation's position and adequately depicts the opportunities and risks arising from future developments. [...] Our audit did not lead to any objections."

June 6, 2016, WISTA AG, Mannheim

Capital investment based on environmental and ethical criteria

EuroNatur Foundation's foundation capital now amounts to almost EUR 5.5 million. Moreover, EuroNatur Foundation holds trust property of more than EUR 2.4 million in trust for the benefit of three non-autonomous foundations. In keeping with the organization's philosophy, investment decisions are based on environmental and ethical criteria. Both inclusion and exclusion criteria are applied to these decisions. As a minimum, investment products are not considered if they invest in companies involved in nuclear power, agrochemicals, weapons, genetic engineering, pornography, alcohol, tobacco, the motor industry, the oil and coal industries, airline companies, or if they are invested in government bonds in nations practicing capital punishment, actively driving forward nuclear energy, or which are considered corrupt. Our main financial service providers for asset management purposes in 2016 were the Umweltbank AG, the Bank J. Safra Sarasin AG, Vescore, and the GLS Bank.



Photo: Kerstin Sauer



System of remuneration

EuroNatur's employees are assigned at five different functional levels, in addition to the management team. These five levels are Administration I and II, Divisional management, and Project management I and II. Remuneration bands have been set for each of the levels, extending 20 % either side of the mid-point. The mid-points are EUR 34k and EUR 38k for Administration I and II respectively, EUR 47k per annum for Divisional management, and EUR 42k and EUR 52k respectively per annum for Project management I and II.

In 2016, the Executive Director received an annual remuneration package of EUR 95k. Without exception all members of the Presiding Committee and the Board of Trustees act in a voluntary capacity and only receive reimbursements for cost incurred, but no expense allowances.

Advertising and donor information

Six times a year EuroNatur Foundation sends out information to its donors to keep them in touch with ongoing projects and request support for concrete endeavours. Similarly, support for individual projects is solicited, and information provided, through the organization's website at www.euronatur.org, the digital EuroNatur newsletter and emailings. In addition, regular donors receive the EuroNatur magazine as well as

topical project reports containing comprehensive information and reports on current developments in the projects. In 2016, EuroNatur Foundation conducted its own donor information and fundraising. With the exception of printers, no aspect of these tasks was outsourced to any agency or external service provider.

Impact monitoring and impact analysis

One of the most important tenets of EuroNatur's work is the efficient deployment of funds entrusted to us by our donors and by the organizations (both governmental and non-governmental) that support our work. Systematic planning of activities and comprehensive impact monitoring are preconditions to the efficient use of funds.

EuroNatur Foundation takes both a supportive and an operative role. For projects undertaken by EuroNatur in cooperation with its partner organizations, and which in most instances are in receipt of third-party financial support (from both governmental and non-governmental sources), EuroNatur reports back in detail to the financial backers. Impact monitoring already begins at the stages of project development and project application. EuroNatur develops projects based on comprehensive situational analysis and

needs assessments. Together with our partners we formulate the overall objectives and prepare project applications based thereon. These can only attract funding if the objectives are clearly set out and if activities are proposed that serve to meet these objectives. Evidence of the use of funds must include comprehensive evaluations of the achievement of set objectives as well as rationales for potential changes in or adjustments to activities or even objectives. In order to receive grants from EuroNatur, applicants must present cohesive project designs in keeping with the principles set out above. The partner organization's reports are subject to comprehensive evaluation by EuroNatur and our project managers regularly visit the project areas to discuss the projects' progress.

Both positive developments and difficulties arising are assessed in order to allow for procedural adjustments to be made and to learn lessons for the future. Progress reports document project development up to the point of the projects' completion.



My Legacy Does Good – The Apple Tree Principle

To create something of lasting value that continues to bear fruit, to pass on to the next generation and to society something one considered important during one's lifetime – these are expressions of the deeply human desire to leave traces in the world beyond one's passing. But how? In order to provide guidance in this area, an umbrella initiative was established in 2013 under the name of "Mein Erbe tut Gutes. Das Prinzip Apfelbaum" ('My Legacy Does Good. The Apple Tree Principle'). Meanwhile, the initiative has expanded from the original five founder members to 23 participating organizations and foundations in Germany, all of which work in the non-profit sector. EuroNatur Foundation joined the initiative in January 2016.

How to pass on values

The 'Apple Tree Principle' is designed to communicate to the broader public the basic attitude of living responsibly and exerting a formative influence on the world in accordance with one's own values. Many people are not even aware that it is possible to include a charitable organization in their will, never mind how to do so in a formally correct way. The initiative, as a neutral platform providing information and inspiration, aims to support people in their endeavour to do good with their legacy. It offers advice and guidance to potential testators as to how they can actively frame their will, and demonstrates how inheritances and bequests sustainably safeguard the work of charitable organizations. In order to be able to offer independent legal advice, the initiative cooperates with the Deutsche Vereinigung für Erbrecht und Vermögensnachfolge e.V. (a German paralegal association for inheritance law and asset succession) and puts interested parties in touch with suitable contacts who can answer individual questions.

The fruit of one's life

The apple tree was chosen as a symbol of the cycle of life, growth, death and new life. The tree is planted in the autumn and freezes over winter only to blossom in the spring with renewed strength and bear fruit once more. With a bequest made to a good cause it is possible to do good beyond one's own lifetime and to shape the future. No matter how large or small, such a legacy will continue to bear fruit, year after year.

Are you thinking about considering EuroNatur in your will?

To find out more about bequests please contact:

Sabine Günther, e-mail: sabine.guenther@euronatur.org



Photo: Kerstin Sauer - Team of EuroNatur in Radolfzell

EuroNatur Offices

Radolfzell

Westendstraße 3
D - 78315 Radolfzell
Fon +49 (0)7732/92 72 0
Fax +49 (0)7732/92 72 22
info@euronatur.org

Bonn

Euskirchener Weg 39
D - 53359 Rheinbach / Bonn
Fon +49 (0)2226/20 45
Fax +49 (0)2226/171 00
bonn@euronatur.org





euronatur FOUNDATION

Presiding Committee:

President: Christel Schroeder

Vice president: Prof. Dr. Sven Olaf Hoffmann

Members of the Presiding Committee:

Dr. Thomas Griese, Jörg Nitsch,

Prof. Dr. Hubert Weiger, Prof. Dr. Thomas Potthast,

Prof. Dr. Hans Dieter Knapp (non-voting)

Executive Director:

Gabriel Schwaderer, Radolfzell

Director of Conservation Policy:

Lutz Ribbe, Rheinbach

Imprint:

EuroNatur Foundation

Westendstraße 3, D – 78315 Radolfzell

Fon +49 (0)7732/92 72 0

Fax +49 (0)7732/92 72 22

info@euronatur.org

www.euronatur.org

www.facebook.com/euronatur

www.youtube.com/euronatur

www.twitter.com/EuroNaturORG

Writers:

Katharina Grund, Christian Stielow, Gabriel Schwaderer

Translation:

Ute Bohnsack, e-mail: agroeco@eircom.net

Photo credit:

Cover: Bruno Dittrich – Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*)

Graphic design:

Kerstin Sauer; EuroNatur Service GmbH

ISSN 0945-148X

Printing:

Fischer Druck GmbH & Co. KG,

printed on 100% recycling paper



The DZI (German Central Institute for Social Issues) seal of approval certifies that EuroNatur is serious, transparent and uses donations wisely and effectively.

Conservation needs action – and money!

Our successful work is built on targeted strategies, efficient methods, sound knowledge, rich practical experience and respectable partner organisations in the project regions. But existing opportunities translate into concrete measures only with the help of our donors.

Donations to registered charities such as EuroNatur are tax-deductible. Please help us help Europe's nature and wildlife.

Donations:

Bank für Sozialwirtschaft Köln

IBAN DE42 3702 0500 0008 1820 05

SWIFT/BIC BFSWDE33XXX

Please spread the word and help us find new supporters for EuroNatur!
www.euronatur.org



