

The background is an abstract, textured composition of various shades of green, teal, and blue. It has a marbled or watercolor-like appearance with organic, flowing patterns and some darker, more saturated areas interspersed with lighter, more vibrant ones. The overall effect is a rich, naturalistic feel.

euRONATUR

OUR YEAR 2021

EDITORIAL & CONTENT



Dear Sir or Madam,
dear Friends of EuroNatur!

Species extinctions, natural disasters, a war right in the middle of Europe and a pandemic, the medium and long-term effects of which will only gradually become fully apparent, – our world has been turned upside down. To what extent we, as humankind, will use the current crises as an opportunity to alter our thinking and, above all, our behaviour remains to be seen. Even if hope seems faint at times, giving up is not an option. Once again, our annual report shows you what we can achieve together and against all obstruction.

Serbian bird conservationist and EuroNatur partner Milan Ružič put it so aptly: „The other side will win if we stop doing what we have been doing for all these years. It's a never-ending game that costs a lot of resources.“ Civil society engagement and civic courage are at times incredibly demanding for us all, but they are indispensable especially in times like these. Without our joint efforts, for example, Europe's last wild river would have been dammed up long ago. Instead, a tangible proposal for a Vjosa National Park

now sits on Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama's desk. Had we not been reporting to the EU Commission for years about illegal logging of old-growth forests in Romania, there would be no EU infringement proceedings against the Romanian government today.

In our annual report for 2021, we also share other gratifying developments with you and introduce you to some of the people behind these successes. And please always remember that in reality there are many more! And so we extend our heartfelt thanks to all our donors and to all those who make our work possible through institutional project funding. The EuroNatur Presiding Committee, the entire EuroNatur team, and our partners in the project countries are very happy to know that you are at our side. In these challenging times, it keeps giving us the courage we need to continue our efforts against the destruction of nature and for a liveable Europe. Together we are shaping the future in which we strive to live. On this note, I trust you will find this an enticing read.

Yours sincerely,

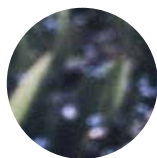
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Potthast', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Prof. Dr. Thomas Potthast
President of the EuroNatur Foundation

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MISSION & VISION

EuroNatur – Connecting Nature and People



Natural treasures are subject to overexploitation everywhere. EuroNatur stands for a different way. The foundation's nature and species conservation projects help preserve Europe's nature in its beauty and diversity. EuroNatur protects large-scale natural landscapes as well as ecologically valuable cultural landscapes throughout Europe.

EuroNatur projects are designed for the long term and involve the needs of local people. We strive not only for the protection of wildlife and its habitats in Europe, but also for an ecologically sustainable development of the respective region – in harmony with nature.

We emphasize cooperating with local partner organizations and provide our partners in the EuroNatur project areas with the necessary support that enables them to effectively protect nature.

Our mode of operation

Our efforts for the protection of plants, animals and habitats are transboundary 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. In our work we follow a well-proven approach:

KNOWING

Using reputable scientific studies, we provide evidence of the conservation importance and uniqueness of species, landscapes and habitats and of the threats they face.

PROTECTING

We work on driving forward the formal protection of endangered species as well as of habitats and landscapes of particular high ecological value. To this end we utilize national and international political structures.

SAFEGUARDING

Protected areas and species must be given sustained effective protection. We support control measures and make our demands for rigorous protection measures heard in national and international political institutions as well as in the courts. Where necessary, we exert public pressure on decision-makers (for example by way of protests and media attention).

LIVING

We generate acceptance of the need for protection and potentially associated restrictions for the local communities. Together with the local people we establish ecologically compatible land-use methods in protected habitats that open up socio-economic prospects. This helps us to win over local people as partners for achieving our conservation objectives, thus laying the groundwork for the long-term effectiveness of our efforts.

MOTIVATION

Why I work for EuroNatur



“Solidarity is important to me. At EuroNatur, the focus is on working together, not on the pursuit of profit. I used to be a donor – now I work for EuroNatur myself, and I feel good about being able to make a meaningful difference as part of a large European network.”

*Anja Arning, Head of Communications,
Press and Public Relations*



“In my head and in my heart, I have always remained a Slovenian and I am proud to have roots in the Balkans. Through my work at EuroNatur, I want to give something back to my home country of Slovenia and the whole of the Balkans, and do good from afar.”

Michael Fantinato, Office Management and Administration



“I fully support EuroNatur's approach. We ask our partners on the ground what they need instead of imposing our plans on them. Nature conservation only works if local people are involved. That is what I have experienced in all my previous projects.”

Lisa Leschinski, Project Manager, Lynx and Monk Seal Conservation



“ The fact that the global hydropower boom has not only ecological but also social implications has concerned me for a long time. At EuroNatur, these complex, ecopolitical interrelationships are openly discussed and reflected upon – that is precisely what inspires me about our conservation work. ”

Dr. Amelie Huber, Project Manager, Freshwater Conservation



“ When you express strong opinions in the EU political environment, you get noticed. EuroNatur is not quick to compromise and is among the organizations that take a somewhat harder line and stand by it. I think that is a good thing. ”

Thomas Freisinger, EU Policy Officer



“ Through my work at EuroNatur, I am able to generate enthusiasm for nature conservation projects across Europe and establish cross-border networks of partner organizations. The European Green Belt shows that, out of a historically dark time, something new and positive can grow. That is fascinating. ”

Florian Hofmann, Project Manager, European Green Belt



“ As a communications designer, I have to bring together information, text and images in a visually appealing way and present them in a format which is easy to understand. If I can get people to imagine themselves in our project areas, if I can awaken their understanding of the people, animals and plants that live there, of their beauty, but also of how endangered they are, then maybe I will succeed in making our world a little better. ”

Kerstin Sauer, Art Director

ORGANIZATION & STRUCTURE



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 October 4, 2021 EuroNatur is a member of, amongst others, the following organizations: European Green Belt Association e.V., International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), European Habitats Forum, German League for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection (DNR), Association of German Foundations, Agrar-Bündnis e.V. 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 2021, EuroNatur's Presiding Committee had six voting members, 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 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 2021, EuroNatur's Board of Trustees had 9 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 Executive Director is in charge of and responsible for steering the organization's operative work. In 2021, EuroNatur employed a total of 30 staff, who are active in the central functions of project management, administration and communications. More than 30 voluntary collaborators support the work of EuroNatur Foundation.

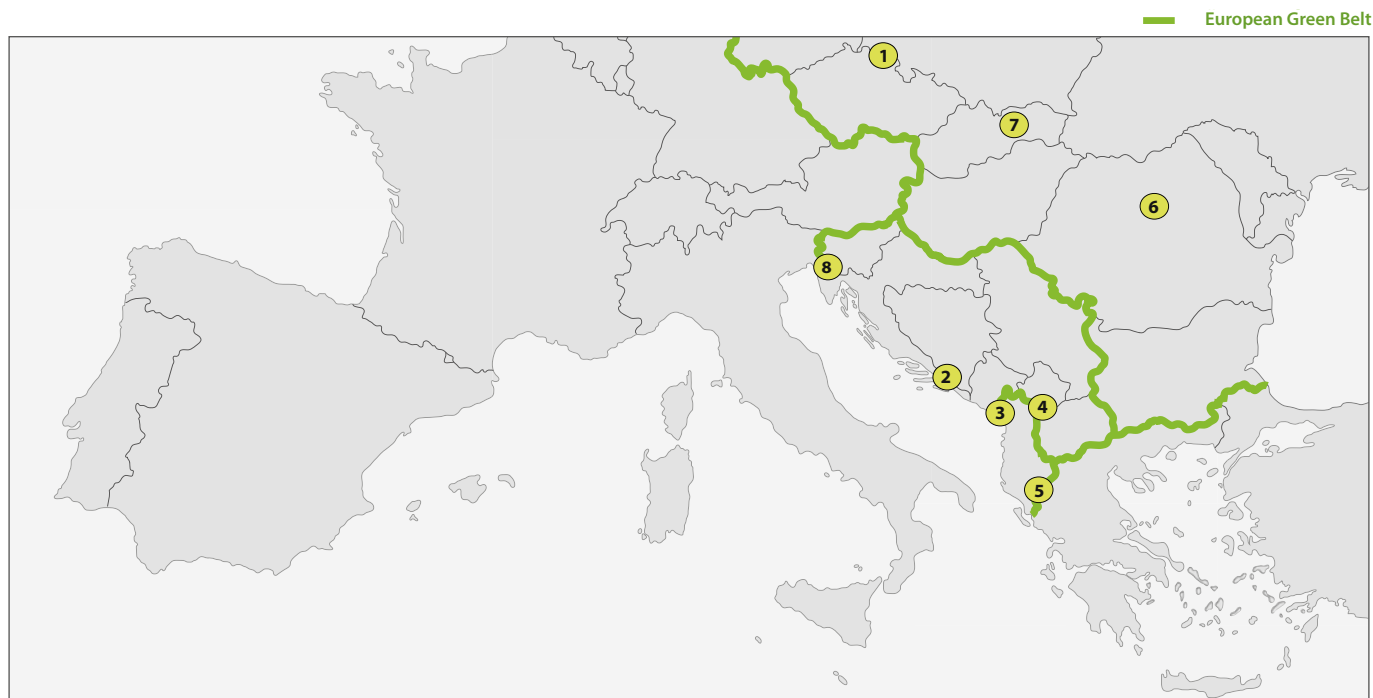
EuroNatur Service GmbH

More than 25 years ago, the EuroNatur Foundation 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 EuroNatur Foundation and other clients.

ORIENTATION MAP

This map is for orientation purposes and only shows the project areas depicted in the EuroNatur Annual Report 2021. The project report illustrates the core themes as well as the Foundation's working methods by way of example. Successes or challenges in 2021 are high-lighted. We are also continuously committed to the protection of Europe's natural heritage in projects that could not be presented in detail due to lack of space. A complete overview of all EuroNatur activities can be found in the chapter "Funding priorities 2021". The EuroNatur newsletter www.euronatur.org/newsletter-en provides information on current developments.

- ① Sudetes Mountains (Poland, Czech Republic)
- ② Neretva Delta (Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- ③ Bojana-Buna Delta and Ulcinj Salina (Albania, Montenegro)
- ④ Šar Mountains (North Macedonia)
- ⑤ Vjosa/Aoos (Albania, Greece)
- ⑥ ⑦ Carpathians (Romania, Slovakia)
- ⑧ Northern Dinarides (Slovenia, Croatia, Italy)



HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021

What did we achieve together in 2021 for the protection of nature in Europe?
Actors who are part of the EuroNatur network present their personal highlights.



“ The European Union’s financial support for the BESTbelt project shows that the potential of the European Green Belt has finally been recognized in Brussels. In times like these in particular, the initiative’s message is more important than ever. Together we are expressing our deep desire for freedom and peace in Europe, across ecological, cultural and geographical borders. ”

*Anne Katrin Heinrichs,
Project Manager, European Green Belt*



“ In October 2021, we opened a new office in the heart of the European Quarter, thereby strengthening our presence at EU political level. That is very important, because in Brussels decisions are made that affect us all. EuroNatur defends the common interests of civil society at EU level by critically monitoring and commenting on the processes that have an impact on Europe’s nature. ”

Gabriel Schwaderer, EuroNatur Executive Director



“ In 2021, there was a positive change of direction at the Ulcinj Salina. The issue of ownership was finally resolved, and the saltworks was declared state property again. In Goran Gugić, we also gained an experienced manager who is committed to protecting the salina. This turnaround is something we have all been working toward for years. ”

Zenepa Lika, Dr. Martin Schneider-Jacoby Association, EuroNatur partner in Montenegro



“ The legal battle against the construction of dams on the Vjosa River has become a powerful tool in our campaign. The successful outcome of the 'Poçëm case' was a positive turning point for the environmental movement in Albania. The case became a guide for many others like it! Consequently, the environmental impact assessment for the Kalivaç hydropower project was rejected again in 2021, preventing (for now) the construction of the dam. ”

Olsi Nika, EcoAlbania, EuroNatur partner in Albania



“ Together and across borders for Europe's nature – not only is this EuroNatur's way of working, it is also key to the success of the 'Save Bees and Farmers' campaign. It has shown what the European idea can make possible. Along with many organizations and 1.2 million EU citizens, we have raised our voices and campaigned for a sustainable agriculture. Now the EU Commission must act! ”

Matthias Heinrich, Social Media Manager at EuroNatur



“ In 2021, we were able to complete the renovation of the Frankfurt (Oder) bat roost making it even more attractive for bats and safeguarding it for the long term. Evidence of how well the nationally important 'Old Brewery' winter roost is being accepted can be seen in the results of the 2021/2022 winter survey, which recorded around 1,700 bats in total, including nearly 600 greater mouse-eared bats. ”

Sandra Wigger, Project Manager, Cultural Landscapes

EUROPEAN GREEN BELT

Overcoming borders, protecting nature

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 Cold War's Iron Curtain (map p 7). The European Green Belt connects eight biogeographical regions and 24 nations.

Status

Pressure on the European Green Belt's natural treasures is mounting, partly due to ongoing habitat destruction, illegal hunting and unsustainable tourism.

Objectives

We aim to foster sustainable regional development along the European Green Belt that preserves the diverse flora and fauna and at the same time offers the local people ecologically compatible options for income generation. We are committed to further strengthening cross-border exchanges between local action groups in the countries bordering the Green Belt.

FOR 30 YEARS NOW, THE EUROPEAN GREEN BELT HAS NOT ONLY STOOD FOR THE CONTINENT'S LARGEST NATURE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE, BUT HAS ALSO BEEN A POWERFUL SYMBOL OF THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE EAST-WEST CONFLICT. PUTIN'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE BRUTALLY DEMONSTRATES THAT THIS PHASE, FOR THE TIME BEING, HAS COME TO AN END. THIS ALSO POSES UNFORESEEN CHALLENGES FOR OUR WORK ON THE EUROPEAN GREEN BELT, ESPECIALLY IN ITS NORTHERN SECTION.





Selected activities in 2021

- In the Šar Mountains (see next double page and map p 7, no. 4), twelve sustainable pilot projects with local actors were launched in 2021. The projects focus on beekeeping, ecological livestock farming and sustainable tourism.
- Despite ongoing difficult conditions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, numerous activities took place as part of the „European Green Belt Days“. One of the highlights was a two-day youth camp in the forests of Strandja in the Bulgarian-Turkish border region. Experts from both countries showed the 24 participants some of the region's most ecologically valuable areas. Additionally, they visited villages in the border region and had the opportunity to speak to contemporary witnesses who experienced the Cold War.

Important achievements in 2021

- Further momentum for the European Green Belt will come from a new pilot project which was approved in 2021: BESTbelt (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and Training along the European Green Belt). The EU-funded project will support initiatives that preserve biodiversity and implement promising projects for sustainable regional development along the European Green Belt. The financial support from the European Union indicates that Brussels has finally grasped the significance of the European Green Belt – something we have worked intensively towards in recent years.



Outlook

BESTbelt offers a great opportunity for the work on the European Green Belt to gain momentum in order to preserve it in its ecological and cultural diversity. There is no doubt that the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine will impact our work on the European Green Belt; the extent of this impact is as yet difficult to assess.

Partners: EBGA members and stakeholders involved in the European Green Belt Initiative

Funding: Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, DBU, MAVA Foundation, European Union, EuroNatur donors

EUROPEAN GREEN BELT

“Our aim is to show how much can be achieved through personal initiative.”

Finally being on the ground again, finally having real contact with the people with whom we work! EuroNatur project manager Sandra Wigger is still euphoric when she thinks back to her work trip to the European Green Belt in September 2021.

My journey took me to the tri-border area of North Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo. For the first time, I travelled around the entire mountain range and I was impressed by its vastness – as well as by the enthusiasm with which our local partners apply themselves to the tasks at hand.

The Šar-Korab-Koritnik mountain range is part of the European Green Belt in the Balkans. Its nature is overwhelmingly beautiful and rich in animal and plant species. Yet neither the North Macedonian, nor the Albanian or Kosovar governments are investing in this rural area's sustainable development. Instead, the main focus is on resource exploitation. No wonder most young people are migrating away from the region.





We want to break this vicious circle! Our aim is to support the local population to develop livelihoods and stay in their native home. The more people can live on nature tourism or agriculture, the more difficult it becomes for governments and unscrupulous investors to exploit the natural and cultural landscape of the Šar-Korab-Koritnik region.

Together with our national partner organisations in the three countries, we have identified many motivated women and men who have ideas on how to strengthen the region. There is huge potential. Over the past year and a half, we supported them in developing their visions. In this way, many positive impulses can

lead to activities in the region and we can help people to experience themselves as effective actors rather than being helplessly at the mercy of the plans of the powerful.

Effective regional development can only emerge from the bottom up, and only through motivated people on the ground – and we found them. I am particularly pleased about the fact that most of the actors initiated exchanges with their fellow campaigners in the two neighbouring countries all by themselves, because that's exactly what our commitment to the European Green Belt is about: overcoming borders, joining forces and creating networks for nature conservation!

EUROPE'S MIGRATORY BIRDS

Dangerous journey across the Balkans

Geographical location in Europe

Bird habitats along the Adriatic Flyway, which runs from north-eastern and central Europe across the Balkans and down to Africa. Focal areas include the Neretva Delta including the Hutovo Blato Nature Park in the border region between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as the Bojana-Buna Delta including the Ulcinj Salina in the border region between Albania and Montenegro (Map p. 7, No. 3).

Status

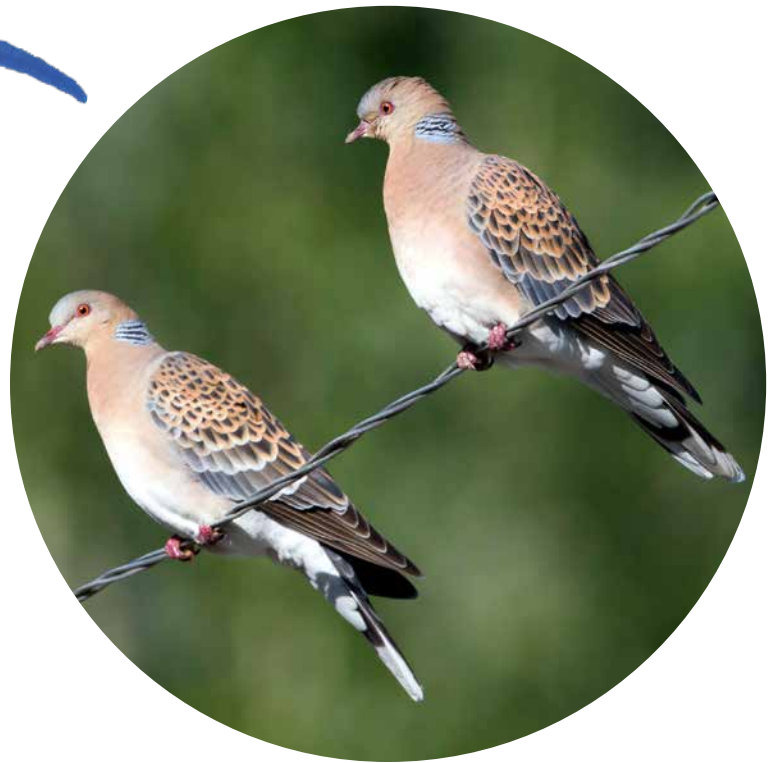
Despite our efforts in Southeast Europe over many years, far too many migratory birds are still getting shot there. In addition to illegal hunting along the Adriatic Flyway, the increased development of power lines and wind turbines results in high losses, as do poisonings – partly in the form of bait and partly as a result of ingesting lead shot ammunition.

Objectives

With the help of our network of partners in conservation, our aim is to significantly reduce illegal bird killing in the Balkans and raise awareness of the issue among civil societies in Southeast Europe. We demand effective measures from the national governments of the Western Balkan states to end poaching. Among other actions, they must transpose the already adopted Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals into national action plans and ensure their implementation.



MORE THAN MOST OTHER GROUPS OF ANIMALS, MIGRATORY BIRDS SYMBOLIZE THE OVERCOMING OF BORDERS. BUT ON THEIR MIGRATION ROUTES, THESE ENDURANCE FLYERS ARE EXPOSED TO MANY HAZARDS. EURONATUR IS COMMITTED TO PROTECTING EUROPE'S MIGRATORY BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS.



Selected activities in 2021

- Our partners in the various Balkan states generated a lot of media attention on the issue of illegal bird hunting. In Serbia, for example, a campaign was broadcast on 26 radio stations, calling on citizens to report illegal activities – the response was high.
- In a joint operation with Slovenian customs, our partners at DOPPS checked 500 cars and seized numerous smuggled birds, including many woodcock. Slovenia is a transit country for bird smuggling, especially for Italian hunting tourists.

Important achievements in 2021

- The network of trained taskforce personnel against illegal bird hunting has continued to grow. Among other activities, our partners at Biom in Croatia trained 24 volunteers who checked more than 100 locations for the use of sound lures in 2021 alone and filed numerous charges against illegal hunting.
- Under pressure from our Serbian partners at BPSSS, the government in Belgrade issued a temporary ban on the hunting of turtle doves and grey partridges. The annual hunting season for common quail will be significantly shortened.
- In the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the hunting law was revised. Our partners at Naše ptice had proposed amendments, many of which were incorporated into the current draft law. The list of huntable bird species is to be reduced from 119 to 25, for example.

Outlook

We aim to further promote the good cooperation between our partners along the Adriatic Flyway and thus make the trans-boundary habitats of Europe's migratory birds safer for them.

Partners: BirdLife International, VCF, IUCN Med, Tour du Valat, BPSSS, HDZZP, Biom, Naše ptice, CZIP, MSJA, PPNEA, AOS, DOPPS, WWF Spain, WWF Greece

Funding: MAVA Foundation, Natum Foundation, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors

EUROPE'S MIGRATORY BIRDS

Ulcinj Salina: A turn for the better

Geographical location in Europe

The Ulcinj Salina (Map p. 7, No. 3) is an area of salt evaporation ponds covering almost 1,500 hectares on the Adriatic coast in the south of Montenegro, close to the border with Albania.

Status

Tens of thousands of birds depend on the Ulcinj Salina for breeding, wintering or resting. For a time it looked as if we had lost this gem to the corrupt Montenegrin state, whose government representatives wanted to develop the area for mass tourism. Then in 2019, after decades of struggles, the Ulcinj Salina was awarded national and international protection. However, as long as it was unclear whether the salina was in private or state ownership, as long as there was no one who took responsibility for the management of the nature park and was sufficiently qualified to do so, and as long as the Montenegrin government worked against us, it was still a messy situation. But this changed when there was a historic change of government in Montenegro at the end of 2020.

Objectives

Our aim is to save the bird paradise that is Ulcinj Salina. To this end, salt production must resume and the saltworks must be managed in the interest of nature conservation. The local population should be able to utilize the potential of ecologically compatible sources of income around the saltworks and thus contribute to the protection of the flamingos, curlews and all the other species.



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE REMAINED LOYAL TO US THROUGH ALL THE UPS AND DOWNS AND WHO SUPPORT OUR COMMITMENT TO THE ULCINJ SALINA WITH THEIR DONATIONS. !!

**DR. STEFAN FERGER,
EURONATUR PROJECT MANAGER MIGRATORY BIRDS**



Important activities and achievements in 2021

- Following a decision by the Privatisation Council, the Ulcinj Salina is to remain in state ownership. After years of stalemate, in which this decision was delayed by the government, investments in the salinas' infrastructure are finally possible.
- With the 2011 EuroNatur Award winner, Goran Gugić, we have someone in a crucial position since December 2021 on whom we can pin our hopes. As the former head of the Lonjsko Polje Nature Park in the Croatian Sava floodplains, he has proven how much he wants to and can achieve for nature conservation. Since December 2021, he has been entrusted with setting up a suitable management structure for the Ulcinj Salina Nature Park.
- Together with our partner organisations and the local communities, we developed further quality business ideas for soft ecotourism around the Ulcinj Salina. In the meantime, eight projects have commenced.
- The EU Commission continues to consider the protection of the Ulcinj Salina and the improvement of its conservation status a precondition for Montenegro's accession to the EU.

Chances are better than ever that the salina will be restored and the area will become what it once was: one of the most valuable bird habitats in Europe.

Outlook

In 2022, the first measures are to be implemented to stop the salina's further deterioration. Another focus is on the development of soft ecotourism.

Partners: CZIP, MSJA, BirdLife International, Tour du Valat

Funding: MAVA Foundation, EuroNatur donors

EURONATUR PARTNERS SAY "THANK YOU."

A key feature of EuroNatur is the continuity of its commitment – something that our partner organisations across Europe greatly appreciate.



"I would like to thank the entire EuroNatur team for supporting us in our fight for a free flowing River Kruščica with the EuroNatur Award in 2019. The encouragement has helped us to get to where we are today – me personally, but also the whole community."

*Maida Bilal,
Eco Bistro in Kruščica, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
EuroNatur awardee 2019*



"We really appreciate the support of EuroNatur. The politicians here simply don't listen to the Albanian public. Albania is eager to join the EU. The more public pressure from outside, the greater is the chance that the government will finally take action against illegal bird hunting."

*Zydjon Vorpsi,
PPNEA, EuroNatur partner in Albania*





“ We know that EuroNatur stands with us in the long struggle for the Ulcinj Salina – and has done so for over 20 years! This is very significant source of support for our organisation, for the salt flats and the people of Ulcinj. ”

*Marija Šoškić Popović,
CZIP, EuroNatur partner in Montenegro*



“ We will not wait until Europe's last major bear population is on the brink of extinction. Thank you very much for your contribution which ensures that we can help to protect the bears in the Dinarides NOW! ”

*Aleksandra Anja Dragomirović,
CZZS, EuroNatur partner in Bosnia and Herzegovina*



WOLF, BEAR & LYNX

Cross-border wolf conservation in the Sudetes

Geographical location in Europe

Sudetes mountain range (Map p. 7, No. 1).

Status

Thanks to strict protection measures, wolves are once again extending their range in many parts of Central Europe. From Poland, the ancestors of our domestic dogs first recolonised Germany, and in recent years also the Czech Republic. One focus of our wolf projects is in the Sudetes mountain range in the border region between Poland and the Czech Republic.

Objectives

We are committed to ensuring that the wolf continues to enjoy a high protection status on both sides of the Sudetes mountain range. Our aim is to further promote good solutions to human-wildlife conflicts, which are increasing with the growing number of wolves, and to increase acceptance of *Canis lupus* among the local public and in the policy sphere.

IN RECENT YEARS WOLVES, BROWN BEARS AND LYNX HAVE MADE SOMETHING OF A COMEBACK IN EUROPE. TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERS WE ARE WORKING TO PROTECT THE "BIG THREE" AND THEIR HABITATS. MOREOVER, WE DEVELOP SOLUTIONS THAT ENABLE THE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS.





Selected activities in 2021

- In a joint effort, our Polish partners at Wilk and our Czech partners at Hnutí Duha collected a lot of scientific data on the cross-border wolf population with the help of camera traps and by analysing genetic material. This allowed Hnutí Duha to create a map of confirmed wolf detections for the Czech Republic.
- In the summer of 2021, our Polish partners rescued two wolf pups that humans had illegally taken from forests. The cubs, obviously intended as dog substitutes, were to be returned to their pack, but unfortunately it was not possible to release them back into the wild. Both cubs were placed in a wildlife reserve.

Important achievements in 2021

- Hnutí Duha successfully fought to maintain full legal protection for wolves in the Czech Republic, against attempts by populist politicians to authorise the killing of wolves.
- Our Czech partners work closely with local livestock farmers and the Czech Ministry of the Environment. This made it possible to institute preventive measures against wolf attacks. As a result, livestock farmers are more accepting of the species' return.

- In north-western Poland, Wilk succeeded in freeing a poached wolf from a snare. The animal was given a veterinary examination, fitted with a GPS collar and released back into the forest. This is just one example of many where our partners have thwarted cases of illegal hunting and provided criminal evidence to police and state prosecutors.

Outlook

In the Czech Republic, Hnutí Duha plans to establish a network of cooperative farmers. In this way, our partners hope to draw on a multiplier effect in terms of positive attitudes towards the wolf and to convince livestock farmers who have so far taken a more critical position on the species.

Partners: Hnutí Duha, Wilk

Funding: Lappat Fund, 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

WOLF, BEAR & LYNX

Captured, released and successfully mated

Geographical location in Europe

Source population: Carpathians (Romania, Slovakia) (Map p. 7, No.6 and 7).
Release region: Northern Dinarides (Croatia, Slovenia, Italy) (Map p 7, No. 8).

Status

At the beginning of the 20th century, the lynx population in the north-western Balkans had almost been extirpated. Persecution, habitat loss and a lack of prey had brought the lynx to the brink of extinction. In 1973, the first Carpathian individuals of the rare cats were released in Slovenia. But the populations in the Dinarides remained small, isolated and suffered from a lack of genetic variability.

Objectives

The Dinarides lynx population is to be maintained and strengthened by individuals from the Romanian and Slovakian Carpathians. This should enable connectivity between the lynx in the Dinarides and the Alpine population. This in turn could also reinvigorate the reintroduced but isolated lynx populations in Germany with immigrant individuals.



Current information, photos and videos about the project can be found at
www.lifelynx.eu and
www.facebook.com/LIFELynx.eu



Selected activities in 2021

- A survey conducted by our partners has shown that people in Slovenia and Croatia see the return of the lynx as a positive development. Above all, compared to other parts of Europe, many hunters are favourably disposed to the predators' return. This is an indication that the involvement of local hunters in the project is working exceedingly well.

Important achievements in 2021

- A milestone of the LIFE Lynx project – the relocation of seven lynx by 2023 – was already reached in March 2021. This success is primarily owed to our partners in the Carpathians.
- With the help of camera trap monitoring, 95 individual lynx could be detected in the Dinarides. And it is increasingly common to see offspring from matings between native and introduced lynx in the photos, a development that promotes genetic diversity within the Dinarides population.

Outlook

The numerous cubs are visible proof of the project's success. More lynx are to be taken from the source population in the Carpathians and transferred to the Dinarides.

Partners: University of Zagreb, Slovenia Forest Service, Hunters Association of Slovenia, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, Technical University in Zvolen, University of Ljubljana, Association Progetto Lince Italia, Karlovac University, Biom, ACDB, Italian Carabinieri special command unit for the protection of forests, the environment, and the agri-food sector

Funding: EU LIFE, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors, and others

WOLF, BEAR & LYNX

Dinarides: Electric fences for bear protection

Geographical location in Europe

The Dinaric-Pindos brown bear population extends across nine countries from Slovenia to Greece. During the reporting year, our work focused on Bosnia-Herzegovina (Republik Srpska, Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina) and Montenegro.

Status

The Dinaric-Pindos population is one of the last major bear populations in Europe and the only one from which the large mammals could also naturally recolonise the Alps. There is however a lack of population data while at the same time the brown bears of the Western Balkans are facing numerous threats.

Objectives

Bear population management based on scientific data is to be introduced in Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina. To this end, the scientific data basis needs to be improved. Moreover, it is crucial to create awareness among government officials, hunting associations and the local public that peaceful coexistence of bears and humans is possible. We also advocate for good cooperation in bear conservation between neighbouring countries. Brown bears do not recognise national borders, so their long-term protection can only be secured in a context of transboundary cooperation.



In its work, EuroNatur usually overcomes borders, but in this case we built fences. Find out in the two YouTube videos how we made apiaries bear-proof and bee-keepers happy.





Selected activities in 2021

- On foot of the great response to the Young Bear Conservationists Academy in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2019, our partners at CZIP in Montenegro offered another practical workshop in 2021 (see next double page). Once again, participation was very high.
- Bears love honey. Time and again, these big gourmets therefore destroy beehives – a bitter loss for the beekeepers. With the help of EuroNatur, our partners in Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina have installed several electric fences around apiaries, making them bear-proof. This promotes peaceful coexistence between bears and humans and also prevents illegal hunting.

Important achievements in 2021

- Thanks to constant lobbying by our partners at the Center for Environment, the government of Republika Srpska (an entity of Bosnia-Herzegovina) has developed a management plan for brown bears in close cooperation with conservationists. This is the first ever official species management plan in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

- In Montenegro and Republika Srpska, bear intervention teams, which intervene in bear-human conflicts, were provided with necessary equipment.

Outlook

In addition to the already existing bear intervention teams in the Western Balkans, there are now plans to establish a similar team in the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This would promote exchange at the conservation level between the two politically divided entities of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Partners: CZIP, CZZS

Funding: Bernd Thies Foundation, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors

WOLF, BEAR & LYNX

“I found the Summer Academy to be immensely motivating!”

Hardly any regulatory structures for nature conservation, only a handful of chairs for ecology at the universities, and a tense economic situation: It takes a lot of idealism to become a species conservationist in South east Europe. Together with its partners, EuroNatur is helping to create prospects for young bear conservationists.

Nina Peleksić from Bosnia–Herzegovina is one of them. She is fascinated by the forests of her native region and all life they contain. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Sarajevo and then received a grant to go on to the University of Agriculture and Economics in Krakow, Poland, where she studied Environmental Engineering. The 27-year-old pulled out all the stops to be able to participate in the Summer Academy in Montenegro.





“ After I completed my masters in Poland, I came back to Bosnia-Herzegovina and spent a year looking in vain for a job to get started on my career. I applied for the first summer school in 2019 with great enthusiasm. That one took place in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but unfortunately I wasn't offered a place and I was really disappointed! I'm convinced I want to work in this field and that I need this knowledge. In 2021, I came across the call for applications to the summer school in Montenegro and had another go. This time I was accepted and I was the only student from Bosnia-Herzegovina. I had to make some effort to get there, but in the end it was a fantastic experience.

For me the most interesting part was when they showed us the camera trap videos. We saw how large carnivores behave in the wild. It's one thing to hear about how you have to tranquilise an animal and have only got 45 minutes to measure it and fit it with a transmitter, but when you actually see a 120 kg bear in front of you, you begin to understand what that means in practice. There's a lot of adrenalin flowing.

Particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina, we don't usually have access to information like this. We only hear negative stories about bears and wolves in the media or it's all about hunting. Only a very small number of people are interested in ecology or the behaviour of these animals. When you try to talk to politicians and local mayors about nature conservation, they tell you they have other problems to think about. You try but you don't see any results. So it was all the more motivating for me to take part in the summer school and benefit from the experiences of the professors there. ”

EURONATUR, I'M WITH YOU!

EuroNatur's supporters are the foundation's backbone. Among them are Valerie Forster, Wolfgang Preiser and Simone Rudloff, and they all say "EuroNatur, I'm with you!".

“ For me, it is important to directly support nature conservation as a component of my artistic work. What convinced me to support EuroNatur was, above all, the combination of three main points: Firstly, the conservation and species protection projects the foundation pursues to preserve and sustainably protect Europe's natural heritage. Secondly, I think it's really good that EuroNatur creates awareness and acceptance for ecologically compatible perspectives; in its work in the project areas, the foundation promotes the sustainable development of rural areas together with the local people instead of imposing external concepts. And thirdly, I think EuroNatur's work is effective because they work with, support, and establish connectivity between partners throughout Europe. ”

Valerie Forster, EuroNatur Ambassador



EURONATUR DOES
NOT IMPOSE
EXTERNAL CONCEPTS.



EURONATUR WORKS
TO PREVENT HUMAN-
WILDLIFE CONFLICTS.



From afar, and also from a somewhat different perspective, I follow the developments in nature conservation in Germany and Europe with great interest. Discussions about the return of the wolf or about shooting "problematic bears" often seem quite bizarre to me in view of what is "demanded" of people in Africa in order to preserve wildlife populations. In terms of the coexistence of nature and people, Europe can certainly take a leaf out of Africa's book. I see EuroNatur as a pioneer in this regard. With your projects, for example on the protection of grazing livestock in Poland and Slovakia, and your educational work on the ground, you are creating the foundations for the peaceful coexistence of large carnivores and livestock farmers.

Wolfgang Preiser, EuroNatur sponsor, South Africa

Ecosystems need transboundary protection, which is why I think EuroNatur's approach is spot-on and so important. EuroNatur is an important and influential organisation and I am convinced that it can halt the increasing degradation of Europe's natural heritage. The EU should provide much more funding for soft ecotourism and make subsidies for agriculture and infrastructure conditional upon European nature conservation provisions. I therefore consider EuroNatur's growing influence in Brussels to be a good and necessary step in the interest of nature and the common good.

Simone Rudloff, EuroNatur sponsor



EURONATUR'S
INCREASED
ENGAGEMENT IN
BRUSSELS
IS A GOOD STEP.

EUROPE'S RIVERS

Save the Blue Heart

Geographical location in Europe

Ecologically valuable watercourses in the Balkans, the blue heart of Europe.

Status

The wild river landscapes of the Balkan Peninsula are among the most important centres of European species diversity. But the Balkan rivers are at risk of collapse. More than 3,500 hydropower plants are planned or already under construction in the Balkans – in many cases without a credible Environmental Impact Assessment. This would also affect thousands of people. They would lose their arable land, their drinking water supply and, above all, a substantial part of their native home.

A good ten years ago, EuroNatur and Riverwatch started the „Save the Blue Heart of Europe“ campaign in cooperation with local partners. Our commitment has been bearing fruit: the number of hydropower plants under construction in the Balkans is steadily decreasing, while the civilian population is fighting back against the energy companies' often unlawful activities and also those of their political leaders. Meanwhile, a large network of allies has formed – at the national, EU and even global levels. Scientists, lawyers and artists are raising their voices for the rivers. We have also managed to trigger a rethink in the EU institutions and in the governments of individual Balkan states.

Objectives

Our aim is to ensure that the Balkan rivers are allowed to continue to flow freely. Instead, we advocate for genuinely renewable energy sources to be supported, such as solar energy (see also the chapter „EU Policy“).



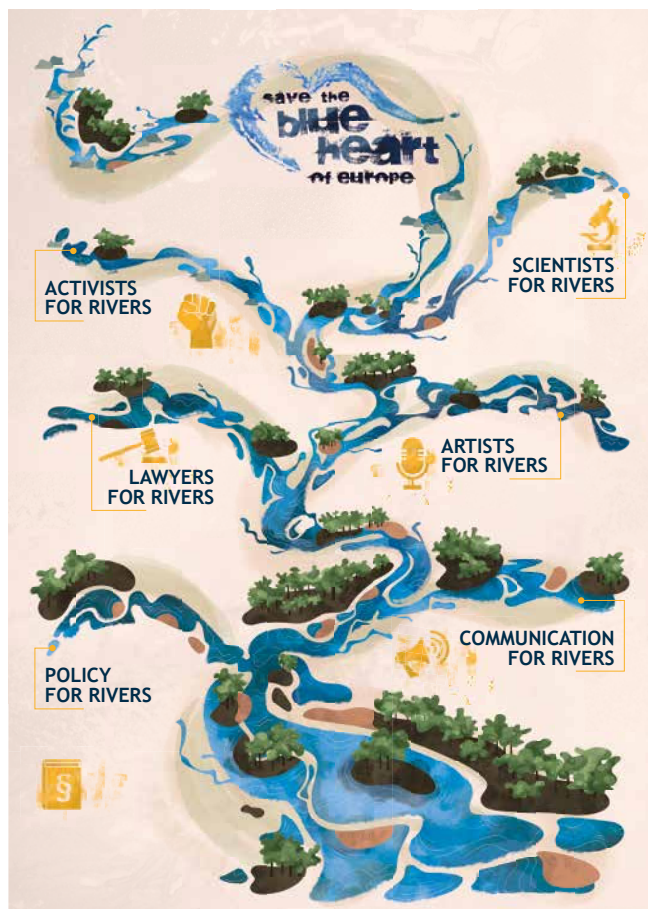
FOR ME, TO PROTECT RIVERS FROM DESTRUCTION IS A QUESTION OF HUMAN DIGNITY. //

LEJLA KUSTURICA,
ATELIER FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION
IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

The blue heart of Europe

Hydropower is still lauded as a green form of energy generation. As a result, pressure on nature has grown significantly more intense. A large proportion of the hydropower plants are to be built in Southeast Europe. But rivers are so much more than just electricity generators; they are among the most species-rich ecosystems in Europe! Together with our partners, we are fighting for the last free-flowing rivers on our continent.

Information, photos and videos are available online at
www.balkanrivers.net
www.instagram.com/blueheartrivers



Selected activities and achievements in 2021

- One of our most effective tools is the “Lawyers for Rivers” initiative. In 2021, thirty hydropower plants were fought by legal means in Bosnia-Herzegovina alone, and a large proportion of them successfully so.
- After the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina took the lead, the Council of the Republika Srpska followed suit and declared that it will cease to subsidise hydropower, review existing hydropower concessions, and impose a moratorium on new concessions.
- On the Sava river in Slovenia, we managed to stop the Mokrice hydropower project, at least for the time being. The plant would have impacted a ten-kilometre stretch of the rivercourse, a number of tributaries and the entire alluvial landscape.
- In Kosovo, the Supreme Court ruled that three hydropower plants already in operation on the wild Lumbardhi river must be taken off the grid – an unprecedented ruling in Europe.
- In July 2021, activists from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia established a pan-Balkan alliance for the protection of the region’s rivers.

Outlook

We will establish even better connectivity between the campaign teams in the individual countries and expand the “Lawyers for Rivers” initiative to continue to facilitate greater impact.

Partners: Riverwatch, ClientEarth, Bankwatch, DPRS

Funding: MAVA Foundation, Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection, Fondation Genevoise de Bienfaisance „Valeria Rossi di Montelera“, Patagonia, EuroNatur’s donors

EUROPE'S RIVERS

"I feel responsible for the rivers."

Nina Kreševljaković is involved as a lawyer with the Atelier for Community Transformation (ACT) and the Aarhus Center Sarajevo, and she is a member of the Lawyers for Rivers initiative. In the interview, she talks about her motivation and why every single court victory is a great victory for civil society.

Nina, what motivates you to advocate for the protection of free-flowing rivers?

Basically, I am concerned about the welfare of the local people. Their lives depend on the rivers in many different ways and they despair when investors come in and destroy their rivers. This destruction forces people to leave their native homes as they lose their livelihoods.

You have very successfully taken the legal route to protect the rivers. Can you describe an important case you have won?

At present, it is difficult to claim that we have definitively won any case in Bosnia-Herzegovina. But there were some favourable judgements that led to the postponement of the construction of hydropower plants. I succeeded in bringing the permit-issuing process for two hydropower plants on the Vrbas River to a complete stop because the cases involved were at an early stage. The president of the local community had initiated a collection of signatures in order to enable illegal construction. I thwarted his plans by bringing criminal charges against him and informing the local community council about the illegal activities. After that, the local community council passed a resolution banning the construction of all hydropower plants in its territory for the next 20 years.





Many of the hydropower projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina are illegal. It would probably be impossible to bringing all these cases to court. Why do you keep going regardless?

With every court victory, people's confidence in the legal system grows. They are increasingly plucking up the courage to take action on environmental issues. As a result, governments and investors are forced to act more cautiously and comply more closely with the law. Due to the court cases we have won, state institutions are already issuing significantly fewer permits and are also receiving fewer applications for environmental permits. The construction of small hydropower plants is already in quantifiable decline.

Interview: Katharina Grund

EUROPE'S RIVERS

Vjosa National Park Now!

Geographical location in Europe

The Vjosa River in Albania (known as „Aoos“ in Greece) including its catchment (Map p 7 No. 5).

Objective

Our aim is to protect the Vjosa as a national park, from its source to its estuary. Europe's first wild river national park should also include the tributaries of the Vjosa and Aoos. All hydropower projects must be stopped.

Status

A national park would not only protect Europe's last great wild river, but also offer the opportunity for sustainable regional development, especially in ecotourism. An overwhelming majority of the Albanian public is in favour of the national park idea, but more than 40 hydropower plants are still planned on the Vjosa and in its catchment. In Greece, there are already some protected areas, but they do not encompass the river (Aoos) along its entire length.





Selected activities and achievements in 2021

- Twenty Albanian environmental organisations submitted a detailed application for the establishment of a Vjosa National Park to the Albanian Ministry of the Environment. At the international level, their request was supported by EuroNatur, Riverwatch and WWF Adria, among others.
- With the „Vjosa National Park Now“ campaign we attracted the attention of decision-makers in Albania and at EU level. The demand for a wild river national park was placed in large letters in front of various landmarks, including in Paris, Berlin, Brussels and Tirana.
- The EU Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee has called on the Albanian government, as part of the EU accession process, to abandon dam plans along the Vjosa and to "establish the Vjosa National Park as soon as possible covering the entire river".
- Thirty scientists from Austria, Albania, Italy and Germany spent a week along the Vjosa tributaries Shushicë and Bënça, studying a large variety of animals, plants and hydrological parameters. The ecological data collected provide arguments for legal action against hydropower projects.
- The environmental assessment submitted by the Turkish investor for the large Kalivaç dam was rejected by the Administrative Court in Tirana and the investor's appeal was rejected – a further achievement of the "Lawyers for Rivers" initiative.
- Since December 2021, five public buildings in the village of Kutë on the Vjosa River have been supplied with electricity from photovoltaic panels. With the solar village we show that there are alternatives to energy generation from hydropower. Kutë is Albania's first solar village.

Outlook

Above all, we will further strengthen the network of lawyers who oppose hydropower projects on the Vjosa, Aaos and their tributaries at the judicial level, and we will remain committed to making the Vjosa National Park a reality.

Partners: : Riverwatch, EcoAlbania, Bankwatch, MedINA, Pindos Perivallontiki, IUCN ECARO, Tour du Valat, DPRS

Funding: MAVA Foundation, Patagonia, EuroNatur's donors

EUROPE'S WILD FORESTS

Romania's paradise forests continue to be at risk

Geographical location in Europe

Romanian Carpathian Mountains (Map p. 7, No. 6). These mountains host the European Union's last sizeable primeval forests outside of Scandinavia. Focal areas of the campaign include primeval and old-growth forests in national parks, areas that form part of the European Natura 2000 system of protected areas, and precious forests that are as yet unprotected.

Status

In recent years, 20 million cubic meters of timber have been illegally logged in the Romanian Carpathians every year, even in protected areas. Thanks to our "SaveParadiseForests" campaign, this massive destruction of nature has become a European issue. The Romanian government has come under increasing pressure on several levels: not only are several national lawsuits underway against illegal logging, but also two EU infringement proceedings.

Objectives

With the "SaveParadiseForests" campaign, EuroNatur and the Romanian nature conservation organisation Agent Green want to contribute to preserving the precious forests of the Romanian Carpathians for current and future generations.

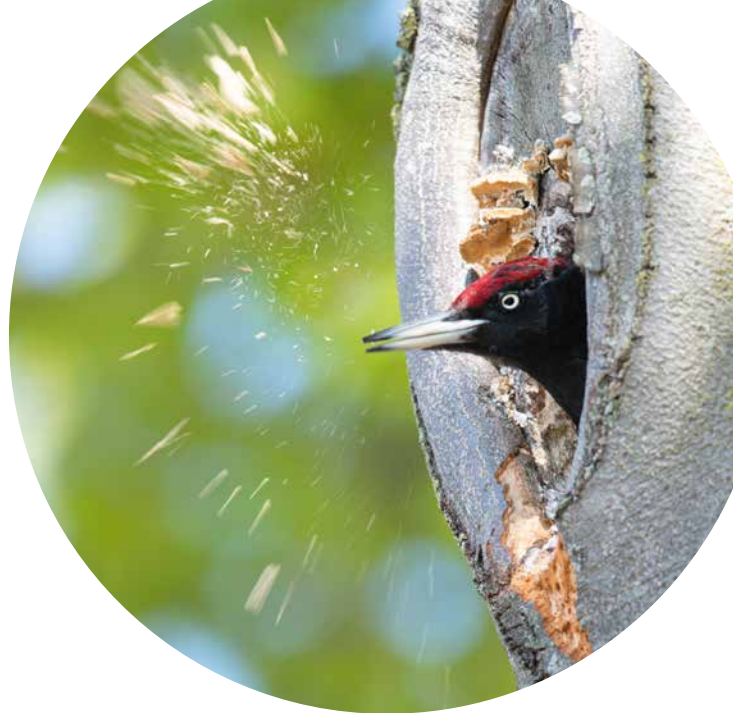


ROMANIA HOSTS THE LARGEST NATURAL UNTOUCHED FOREST HERITAGE WITHIN THE EU'S TEMPERATE CLIMATE ZONE. THESE ECOSYSTEMS ARE RICH IN STRICTLY PROTECTED SPECIES AND ALSO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION. TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERS, WE FIGHT FOR THE LAST WILD FORESTS ON OUR CONTINENT.



“WHEN I TOUCHED THE BARK OF AN ILLEGALLY FELLED BEECH IN THE FAGARAS MOUNTAINS, TEARS CAME TO MY EYES. IT WAS 300 YEARS OLD.”

ANNETTE SPANGENBERG,
HEAD OF CONSERVATION AT EURONATUR



Selected activities and achievements in 2021

- We documented illegal logging in four areas named in the EU infringement proceedings against the Romanian government. This allowed us to show that logging continues unencumbered.
- We have used this evidence in discussions with those responsible in the EU Commission in order to advance the ongoing EU infringement proceedings.
- For the first time, we mapped out the shocking extent of timber transports in Romania, based on data from the Romanian government's official „Forest Inspector” web server. On average, approximately 45,000 timber transports are on the road per 72 hours. Most of the trucks are in operation for 365 days a year and many of them are loaded with ancient trees, some of which come from protected areas as part of the European Natura 2000 network, or from national parks.
- Our Romanian partners at Agent Green have won several court cases. As a result, approximately 59,500 hectares of valuable forests were saved.

Outlook

We will continue to increase civil society pressure on the EU Commission so as to ensure that the Romanian government will finally have to answer to the European Court of Justice. With the RED4Nature campaign (see pages 40 and 41) we are committed to ensuring that the use of forest biomass is not incentivized in the EU.

Partners: Agent Green, ClientEarth

Funding: Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection, Bristol-Stiftung, Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation, Ludwig Raue Memorial Fund, EuroNatur donors

EUROPE'S WILD FORESTS

“Stumps of huge trees everywhere.”

In September 2021, Janinka Lutze, Project Manager at EuroNatur until 2021, toured Romania with a film team and the Romanian EuroNatur partner organisation Agent Green. She recorded her impressions in a diary.

As we drive along a forest road into the Făgăraș Natura 2000 site, forest-covered mountain slopes line the view to the left and right. It is incredibly beautiful. But soon the idyll is suddenly broken: spruce trunks are lying on the side of the road and we are seeing the first timber truck. Next to it are three men, one of them cutting logs with a chainsaw. As we drive on, the scene is repeated until we come to a stop in front of one of the transporters. Clear-felling has severely marked the mountain slopes.

We are trying to find out whether they hold a felling permit and whether an environmental impact assessment had been carried out with respect to these works, because we are in a European Union Natura 2000 site after all. The forestry workers quickly become loud and aggressive. I don't understand everything as they speak Romanian, but I sense that they are feeling cornered. Or perhaps they feel powerless, because they only do the work and are not responsible for the relevant permits. Suddenly there is a flurry of activity. The workers threatened to close the barrier at the entrance to the forest road, thus keeping us in the forest. And that's exactly what happens next. The forestry worker waiting for us at the barrier is enraged and shouts at us. He even threatens us, saying he might go and get his axe. My colleague from Agent Green takes out his mobile phone to call the police. Luckily that act fazed the worker and he let us drive on.



See also Janinka Lutze's online video diary with English subtitles at enatur.org/1039



Illegal timber trucks break the silence

I stand quietly in the forest in the centre of the Piatra Craiului National Park: a black woodpecker drums and next to me there is a cracking sound in the undergrowth as a deer takes flight. Hiking trails take us deeper and deeper into the national park. Around us the forest thrives undisturbed. It triggers in me a sense of peace and strength. On the way back, however, the quietness is suddenly interrupted: Two timber trucks drive past us, loaded with large spruce trunks. From the trucks' number plates we can tell that both are travelling illegally. The first one has no transport permit at all, and the second one's has expired the day before. But the drivers saw us taking photos. A few minutes later, one of the two transporters suddenly has a permit. It is frustrating to see how easily, apparently, the necessary papers can be obtained and how few controls there are. And it gives me an inkling of how much timber is transported without registration, i.e. covertly.

Frustration, passion and confidence

Raluca Nicolae, as well as some volunteers from Agent Green and I walk across a clear-felled site in the forests of Snagov near Bucharest. The landscape around us is bleak. An old oak forest stood here once. Raluca and the volunteers tell me about their protest here in April 2021 and how Romsilva, the Romanian forest management company, ignores the Romanian people's protests. I feel their frustration and at the same time marvel at their unwavering passion for the forest and its protection.



EU POLICY

Covid-19 recovery fund harms nature

In 2020, the European Union launched a Covid-19 recovery fund, known as the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Having been allocated the historically large sum of € 672.5 billion the fund is intended to aid post-pandemic economic reconstruction as well as drive ecological change in Europe. This includes halting the loss of biodiversity. Thanks to extensive research, EuroNatur and a network of NGO partners have uncovered that in Central and Eastern Europe less than one per cent (!) of the recovery fund will be spent on biodiversity conservation or ecological restoration. Conversely, it appears that, at a conservative estimate, at least ten per cent will go to projects that will harm biodiversity. The Romanian government, for example, is receiving roughly € 200 million from the European Union to protect the Carpathian forests from extreme weather events with the help of new technologies. Among other items, the funding is to be used to build forest roads. As the past experience of our Romanian partner organisation Agent Green shows, this is likely to further increase deforestation in the Carpathian forests, even in very remote areas. Together with Bankwatch, we have pointed out abuses like this in over 40 discussions with the EU Commission, some of them successfully. In the updated versions of the National Recovery Plans, the EU Commission cancelled several projects that we and our NGO partners had criticised. One of these is the Mokrice hydropower plant on the Sava River in Slovenia.

Partners: Bankwatch, DOPPS, Zelena Akcija, Hnutí Duha, Agent Green

Funding: MAVA Foundation

EURONATUR DEFENDS CIVIL SOCIETY'S AND NATURE'S COMMON GOOD INTERESTS IN BRUSSELS. TO BE CLOSE TO THE EU POLITICAL SCENE, WE OPENED A NEW SUBSIDIARY IN THE HEART OF THE EUROPEAN QUARTER IN OCTOBER 2021.



Our energy system needs a turnaround

A newly amended Renewable Energy Directive (RED) is expected in 2022/2023. Against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine, a shift away from fossil fuels is more vital than ever. It is now important to help shape what the European Union's future energy supply can and will look like. EuroNatur is pushing for an energy system that works with nature rather than against it. In 2021, we therefore launched the RED4Nature campaign.

The drafts for the future RED that the EU Commission has presented so far are weak, not sufficiently ambitious and harmful to nature. As part of RED4Nature, EuroNatur published a position paper that describes a new viable future-oriented path for energy consumption, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies. To make our voice heard in Brussels and present our vision, we held 15 talks in just one week at the end of 2021 with members of the European Parliament, national government representatives and EU Commission cabinet members.

The Renewable Energy Directive must be brought into line with the EU Green Deal objectives, i.e. provide solutions that address the ecological emergency in its entirety. This means moving away from nuclear energy and fossil fuels, while at the same time identifying alternatives to the use of wood biomass and the further expansion of hydropower, both of which are also forms of energy generation that are very damaging to nature. Moreover, there should be a focus on the decentralisation of the energy system. Approvals for renewable energy projects should be put on a solid footing, whereby for each area appropriate forms of power generation must be found and the individual potential determined, while taking into consideration aspects of nature conservation. All this requires close cooperation with scientists and local communities. In 2022, the RED4Nature campaign continues to gain momentum.

Partners: Riverwatch, Bankwatch, DPRS, Agent Green, ClientEarth

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

MEDIA AND PR WORK

Media buzz in favour of the Balkan rivers

More and more media outlets are now reporting critically on the devastating effects of hydropower dams on river systems and their species diversity. Our strong PR work as part of the „Save the Blue Heart of Europe“ campaign is a contributory factor.

Die Zeit – December 16, 2021 [translated]

“The German environmental initiative EuroNatur participated in all the important campaigns [to protect the Vjosa river]. It helped to spread large banners in many Albanian towns, in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin [...], by the Golden Gate Bridge and at the edge of the Grand Canyon in the United States. “Vjosa National Park Now” was spelled out in huge letters, calling for a strictly protected national park in combination with soft ecotourism.”



The scientists' week on the Shushicë and Bënça rivers generated great interest in the press, radio and television. Many journalists, reporters and television crews travelled to the Vjosa tributaries in June 2021 to report on the activities undertaken by the scientists and river protectors.

National Geographic – July 12, 2021

“Last month, much of the same science team returned to Albania for another survey, this time focusing on two major tributaries of the Vjosa – Shushica and Bënça – part of a network of pristine rivers that extends three times the length of the Vjosa itself.”

ARD Europamagazin – July 17, 2021 [translated]

“For the scientists who came, the Albanian wild rivers are so very special because there are hardly any such rivers left in Europe. Since the country was sealed off for many years during the communist era, the rivers remained untouched along hundreds of kilometres of their lengths. So there are gorges everywhere that are several kilometres long, and broad gravel islands. The river serves as a clean source of drinking water for residents and is also used by farmers to water their herds and flocks.”

In November 2021, the Blue Heart team, including some local partners, was represented at the second European River Summit in Lisbon. The meeting was a great opportunity to network with internationally engaged river conservationists and experts and to raise awareness of our work aimed at protecting the Balkan rivers.



“ WE CAN BE THE GENERATION OF CHANGE! ”

DR. YUNNE-JAI SHIN IN HER ACCEPTANCE SPEECH.



EuroNatur Award for researcher trio from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

On behalf of the more than 1,000 IPBES researchers, marine ecologist Dr Yunne-Jai Shin (France), environmental economist Dr Eszter Kelemen (Hungary) and Allgäu environmental researcher and agricultural biologist Prof. Josef Settele received the EuroNatur Award on October 14, 2021 on Mainau Island in Lake Constance. The IPBES achievements since its establishment in 2012 are ground-breaking: the researchers, coming from various disciplines, have compiled, evaluated and linked all the findings that exist worldwide on the subject of biodiversity. Based on this knowledge, they have succeeded in drawing up scenarios for the future and pointing out tangible ways in which life in harmony with nature is possible. Impressions of the award ceremony can be found online at euronatur.org/award2021.

Süddeutsche Zeitung online – October 13, 2021 [translated]

"Despite accelerating climate change and a dramatic loss of species, many scientists shy away from talking to politicians, according to species researcher Josef Settele. [...] The agricultural biologist from the Allgäu is one of the three lead authors of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report on the status of the Earth's biodiversity and its conservation. On Thursday, in Constance, he will receive the EuroNatur Environmental Award for outstanding achievements in nature conservation on behalf of the Platform."

ECONOMIC SITUATION

"Growth with challenges"

Another year in the shadows of a global pandemic, even more uncertainties, but also even higher turnover: 2021 was a positive year overall, says EuroNatur Executive Director Gabriel Schwaderer.

**First up, the most important question:
How did EuroNatur Foundation fare financially in 2021?**

It was a positive year, but came with a bit of a snag. Our financial result came to 347,000 euro. We achieved a net profit of 187,000 euro, 125,000 euro of which were due to bequests. These are good results in a globally difficult year. However, the income from donations did not increase as much as we had hoped. Evidently, it is difficult to continuously increase donations.

How was it possible to achieve yet another surplus this year?

We received many external project grants, including from donors or foundations that had not supported us before or even been familiar with what we do. We were able to prove to them the quality of our work. We have also succeeded in consolidating the development of donations and donor acquisition in such a way that we remain financially stable and can show a financial result that has steadily increased over the years. On this basis, we are confident that we will be able to compensate for the loss of MAVAs support from 2023 onward. In 2021, MAVAs Foundation began to greatly support us in carrying out targeted marketing measures and thereby broadening our donor base. We have taken a big step in this direction and our aim is to continue working on this issue with intensive focus in 2022. We are well prepared for the closure of MAVAs, our largest financial backer.



Donors form the basis

In 2021, 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, campaigns, awareness-raising and environmental education. Once again, EuroNatur also attracted substantial financial support for project implementation, primarily from private foundations and associations as well as from public sector funding in 2021, most notably from Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, Bristol Stiftung, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, German Federal Environment Agency (UBA), German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (giz), Dr. Manfred and Gudrun Keim Fund, European

Commission, Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco, Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation, Fondation Genevoise de Bienfaisance, Bernd Thies Foundation, Piensa-Stiftung, Lappat Fund, Ludwig Raue Memorial Fund, Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection and MAVA Foundation.



Why are private donations so important for the foundation?

They are important on so many levels! They strengthen our financial basis and are above all a sign of confidence in our work. In this context I would like to emphasise that we have to provide match-funding for many grants and that is why a stable income from donations is of enormous significance. We can then multiply these donations with a number of financial backers. Donations from private individuals and funds from institutions or other foundations build on each other. I really need to thank our donors again and again for supporting us within their means.

The money is used for Europe's nature. How have turnover and expenditure developed over the years?

We are acquiring and moving ever larger sums of money. This has consequences for the entire organisation and presents its own challenges. We need more staff to look after these projects, but we also need more people in communication and administration to be able to manage all the tasks at hand. In 2021, we were able to invest 4.6 million euro or more than 80 per cent of our turnover in projects for nature conservation in Europe. In 2021 we had a turnover of 5.5 million euro - a record to date! Just for comparison, in 2015 it was only 2.5 million euro and in 2011 - just ten years ago - a mere 1.7 million euro. This is a rapid increase, which is also related to the MAVA programmatic partnership. This funding was essential for the foundation and has made an important contribution to how well the organisation is currently doing.

ECONOMIC SITUATION



How safe are the foundation's invested assets in view of the difficulties on the financial market?

In 2021, we had to write off financial assets for the first time in a long time, but fortunately this very rarely happens. However, we also sense that 2022 will be a challenging year. At that point in time when conceivably the Covid pandemic appeared to be coming to an end, Russia massively impacted the entire global situation with its decision to attack Ukraine. And now we are seeing all those adverse consequences, including those resulting from globalisation. The investment of the foundation's capital stock in the coming years will be a difficult task. We will approach it with a clear ethical compass and with great care. However, it could still happen that an investment does not create long-term value, in which case we will react.

What aspects have shaped the foundation's general development in 2021?

Above all, it was the further growth of our staff and the opening of our Brussels office combined with increased policy work. Our aim is to be a strong voice in Brussels and Europe. Through this political work, which is very much linked to our project work, we aim to further increase our effectiveness. So far, we have already worked successfully on the issue of hydropower and the prevention of its further expansion, for example. The successes in this area were however rather sporadic. But our aim is to fundamentally tackle this wave of hydropower, which is why we have to do it at the political level. And that is why we can very considerably increase our effectiveness if we can work on this issue with the European institutions through our Brussels office. In 2021, we also worked intensively on the question as to what a post-Covid working model for EuroNatur could look like. Now we offer our staff much more flexible working options.

Presentation of the Activity Report in accordance with 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 to 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 and commercial activities are not taken into consideration. Given that the DZI calculations of the shares of expenditure under the different headings are only undertaken following the publication of the Activity Report, there may be some discrepancies between EuroNatur's calculations and the DZI results.



DZI Seal of Approval

In April 2022, EuroNatur Foundation was again awarded the DZI (German Central Institute for Social Issues) Seal of Approval. EuroNatur had applied for the seal in August 2021 based on its 2020 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 (please refer to the chapter on „Transparency“ on p. 53).

Finally, a short outlook on 2022 and the years to come. What does EuroNatur expect?

The climate and biodiversity emergencies are becoming ever more acute. At the same time, the war against Ukraine and our dependence on fossil fuel resources from Russia and elsewhere make the need for us to break free from this dependency significantly more urgent. There is a well-known ambivalence between the accelerated expansion of renewable energies and our concerns that as part of this expansion, environmental concerns, and biodiversity conservation in particular, will fall through the cracks. This is where we see a major task for us, which is to support the expansion of renewable energies throughout Europe – because we believe there is no alternative and it also makes economic sense – while ensuring that reasonable standards are in place and environmental impact assessments will be conducted. This is where we see an essential role for EuroNatur in the years to come.

Questions: Anja Arning

ECONOMIC SITUATION



A testament 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 2021, all endowments and yields from bequests were transferred to the foundation's capital stock. This has further strengthened EuroNatur Foundation's financial position. We expect that revenues from portfolio management will, as a minimum, remain stable in the coming years.

Bequests and legacies in 2021

In 2021, the following individuals bequeathed funds to EuroNatur Foundation upon their death. We are greatly indebted to them and will honour their memory.

- Dr. Ingrid Werner-Spangenberg, Berlin
- Irmengard Johanna Sophie Kirsch, Munich
- Dr. Horst Friedrich Johann Dronia, Langenhagen



Non-autonomous foundations and named funds

In 2021, EuroNatur managed three non-autonomous foundations and three earmarked named funds. The named funds' capital (€ 493k) was increased by € 3k compared to the previous financial year while the capital of the non-autonomous foundations (€ 2,169k) remained unchanged. In the reporting year, yields from non-autonomous foundations continued to exclusively benefit EuroNatur project activities.

- 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 2021 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 31.12.2021

ASSETS		2021 "000 €	"000 €	2020 "000 €	"000 €
A. Fixed assets			9,119		8,542
	I. Intangible assets	0		0	
	II. Tangible assets	936		964	
	III. Financial assets	8,183		7,578	
B. Current assets			3,069		3,535
	I. Stocks	6		10	
	II. Account receivable and other assets	628		611	
	III. Liquid funds, short-term securities	2,435		2,914	
C. Deferred Items			7		1
TOTALS			12,195		12,078

LIABILITIES		2021 "000 €	"000 €	2020 "000 €	"000 €
A. Equity			8,910		8,847
	I. Foundation's capital				
	Core capital	77		77	
	Endowments	5,978		5,834	
	II. Revenue reserves	2,855		2,936	
B. Provisions			249		202
C. Liabilities			3,036		3,029
TOTALS			12,195		12,078

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR 2021

Revenue according to DZI	2021	2020	%	%
	*000 €	*000 €	2021	2020
Cash donations	1,194	1,176	19.89	24.79
Donation in kind	39	37	0.65	0.78
Bequest	125	46	2.08	0.97
Fines	7	8	0.12	0.17
Subtotal – total income from donations * (excluding endowments)	1,365	1,267		
Government grants	571	473	9.51	9.97
Grants from other organizations	3,490	2,488	58.16	52.46
Commercial activity	0	27	0.00	0.57
Interest and capital gains	541	459	9.01	9.68
Other revenue	35	29	0.58	0.61
Total revenue	6,002	4,743	100.00	100.00
Withdrawals from revenue reserves	39	4		
	6,041	4,747		

Expenditure according to DZI	2021	2020	%	%
	*000 €	*000 €	2021	2020
Expenditures on programmes				
Staff-related expenditure	1,410	1,120	24.09	25.51
Material expenditure and non-personnel costs	3,345	2,464	57.16	56.13
Expenditures on advertising and PR work				
Staff-related expenditure	217	178	3.71	4.05
Material expenditure and non-personnel costs	311	192	5.31	4.37
Expenditures on administration				
Staff-related expenditure	314	251	5.36	5.72
Material expenditure and non-personnel costs	93	74	1.59	1.69
Expenditures on portfolio management & business operations				
Portfolio management	163	111	2.78	2.53
Total expenditure	5,853	4,390	100.00	100.00
Transfers to the Foundation capital stock	125	46		
Transfers to revenue reserves	0	119		
Transfers to „Umschichtungsrücklage“	63	192		
	6,041	4,747		

* In the 2021 financial year we received € 1,552k in monetary donations, € 168k of which have not yet been claimed due to earmarking. The latter are expected to be claimed in the following year and at the time of actual spending of funds.

The endowments of € 19k (p.y. € 23k) are not included in the income statement.

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 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. Due to differences in legal systems, language barriers and potentially greater corruption risks, the manner in which these grants and donations are passed on to partner organizations abroad 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 Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on national economies has shown that our lives' economic situation can change quickly and dramatically. At this point in time, it is impossible to predict the tangible effects of the war in Ukraine and all its consequences. One effect is evident already: the inflation rate has risen significantly. That there is no interest without risk has now become an undisputed fact. In this light it is becoming increasingly difficult to find some middle ground between security and appropriate 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. Over the past years we have established a special reserve for gains from transactions which can in turn be used to cover potential losses of future transactions ("Umschichtungsrücklage") as 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 considerable administrative expenditure. 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, 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 2021 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 possible ways to increase their efficiency and effectiveness. 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.

TRANSPARENCY - ONE OF EURONATUR'S IMPORTANT TENETS

EuroNatur was again awarded the DZI Seal of Approval

In 2021, 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 2022. 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 customary pay standards; the procurement and use of funding as well as the organization's financial status are traceably documented and adequately verified; the proportion of funds spent on advertising and administration in 2021 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 2021, 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 2021 annual accounts in accordance with Par. 317 ff. 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 as of December 31, 2021, profit and loss account for the fiscal year from January 1 to December 31, 2021, and the Annex, including the presentation of accounting policies. Additionally we audited the management report for the fiscal year from January 1 to December 31, 2021.

In our opinion, based on the information obtained during our audit, the financial statements are in all material respects compliant with the provisions of commercial law applying to corporations in Germany, and convey, in accordance with the German principles of proper accounting, a true and fair view of the Foundation's net assets, liabilities and financial position as of December 31, 2021 and the results of operations for the fiscal year from January 1 to December 31, 2021. The position statement, as a whole, provides an accurate picture of the Foundation's position. In all material respects this position statement is consistent with the annual financial statements, is compliant with the German statutory provisions, and adequately depicts the opportunities and risks arising from future developments. Pursuant to Section 322 (3)(1) HGB (German Commercial Code) we declare that our audit did not lead to any objections as to the correctness of the annual financial statements or the position statement.

June 7, 2022, WISTA AG, Mannheim"

TRANSPARENCY

Capital investment based on environmental and ethical criteria

EuroNatur Foundation's foundation capital now amounts to almost € 6.1 million. Moreover, EuroNatur Foundation holds assets in trust of more than € 2.2 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 2021 were the Bank Vontobel Europe AG, Munich Branch, and the V-BANK AG in Munich, Germany. We manage a large part of the assets ourselves and since the summer of 2017 we have also consulted with an independent financial advisor on a fee basis.

System of remuneration

In 2020, the Foundation underwent structural reorganization. Three new departments were created: Projects, Communication and Administration. These provide for six functional levels: Administration/Communication I-III, Project Management I and II and Head of Department. As before, remuneration bands have been set for each of the levels, extending 20 % either side of the mid-point. The mid-points are € 41k per annum for Administration/Communication I, € 45k for Administration/Communication II, € 55k for Administration/Communication III, € 49k for Project Management I, € 59k for Project Management II, and € 63k for Head of Department. The employees in Brussels receive an average of € 57k per annum.

In 2021, the Executive Director received an annual remuneration package of € 100k gross. 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 flat-rate 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 four times a year as well as topical project reports containing comprehensive information and reports on current developments in the projects. In 2021, EuroNatur Foundation conducted its own donor liaison and fundraising. With the exception of printing works, 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 – as long as there is no pandemic that prevents travel.

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.

HOW YOUR LEGACY CAN DO GOOD A TESTAMENT FOR EUROPEAN NATURE



Testamentary gifts and legacy bequests to EuroNatur support the organization's long-term planning of project activities. Karin and Gerhard Schaad love nature and like to actively contribute to nature conservation. Not for a moment have they doubted their decision to include EuroNatur in their will.

Why did you decide to support nature conservation with your will?

Karin Schaad: We have no first-degree beneficiaries. Because we have a great love of nature, it was obvious to us that our estate should one day benefit its conservation. As we are part of nature, this decision in fact underscores our love for life and our legacy is going to benefit many people.

How did you come to put so much trust into EuroNatur's work?

Gerhard Schaad: Their presentation of how donations are used is clear and compelling and their donor care is superb. There is a palpable sense of commitment among the staff right up to the management level. We can see that people stand behind their work. I also have great confidence in the way EuroNatur conducts business. I would not want to bequeath anything to someone who would use the inheritance to cover high levels of administrative costs or fork out big salaries to management.



Do you sometimes feel powerless in the face of the destruction of nature that is taking place?

Gerhard Schaad: Yes, I do. At a global perspective, I don't have much hope that humankind will still be able to make up for the damage done by the way human society has conducted itself in life and business. But I would feel bad not to continue supporting conservation, even if resources are limited. It is time to get involved in nature conservation. If you can, you should.

Karin Schaad: I would at least like to contribute to setting a course that ensures that some species diversity remains.

What is the message you would like to give out with your bequest to EuroNatur?

Karin and Gerhard Schaad: Keep up the good work!

Interview: Katharina Grund

If you would like to find out more about bequests, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Your contact: Sabine Günther,
sabine.guenther@euronatur.org, Phone +49 (0) 7732/927217**

EURONATUR'S PROJECT FOCI IN 2021



In 2021, 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 and river landscapes
- Protecting migratory birds in Europe
- Protecting large carnivores in Europe
- Protecting Europe's last wilderness areas
- Protecting species-rich cultural landscapes in Europe
- Agricultural policy, biodiversity policy, energy policy

This Activity Report describes 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: 572,000 Euro

Projects

Protection and development of the European Green Belt and ongoing advancement of the initiative (Partners: all EGBA e.V. members as well as the actors involved in the European Green Belt initiative; Funding: MAVA Foundation, EuroNatur's donors), **BEST-belt – Connecting and protecting unique landscapes throughout Europe by empowering local stakeholders** (Partners: members of the EGBA e.V. and stakeholders involved in the European Green Belt Initiative; Funding: European Union, EuroNatur donors), **Improving connectivity along the Balkan Green Belt** (Partners: stakeholders involved in the Balkan Green Belt Initiative; Funding: German Federal Ministry for the Environment with funds from the Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union), **Implementation of model projects to support sustainable development and nature conservation in the Šar/Korab-Koritnik region along the Balkan Green Belt** (Partners: MEA, PPNEA, CNVP; Funding: DBU, Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, MAVA Foundation, EuroNatur's donors), **Strengthening NGO-led Conservation in the Transboundary Prespa basin** (Partners: MES, PPNEA, SPP; Funding: PONT, Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, EuroNatur's donors)

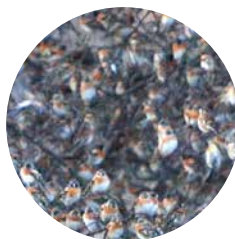
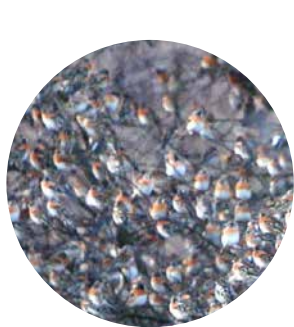
Priority "Protecting Europe's rivers and river landscapes"

Funding spent on this priority: 1,714,000 Euro

Projects

"Save the Blue Heart of Europe" campaign (Partners: Riverwatch, ClientEarth; Funding: MAVA Foundation, Manfred-Hermsen-Stiftung for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection, Patagonia, Fondation Genevoise de Bienfaisance "Valeria Rossi di Montelera", EuroNatur's donors), **Saving Europe's last free flowing wild river – Vjosa/Aoos** (Partners: Riverwatch, EcoAlbania, MedINA, Pindos Perivallontiki, IUCN ECARO, Tour du Valat, DPRS; Funding: MAVA Foundation, Patagonia, EuroNatur's donors), **Restoration of rivers and floodplains on the Sava River** (Partners: HDZPP, The Green Ring of the Zagreb County, all members of the SavaParks network; Funding: Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, EuroNatur's donors), **Preserving Sava River Basin habitats through transnational management of invasive alien species** (Partners: The Green Ring of the Zagreb County, all members of the SavaParks network; Funding: Interreg through funding mechanisms ERDF and IPA, EuroNatur's donors)

EURONATUR'S PROJECT FOCI IN 2021



Priority "Protecting migratory birds in Europe"

Funding spent on this priority: 748,000 Euro

Projects

Safeguarding the bird migration route along the Adriatic Flyway (Partners: BirdLife, VCF, IUCN Med, Tour du Valat, HDZPP, Biom, DOPPS, BPSSS, CZIP, Naše ptice, AOS, PPNEA, WWF Spain, WWF Greece, ATN; Funding: MAVA Foundation, Natum Foundation, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Protecting the Ulcinj salt flats** (Partners: CZIP, MSJA, BirdLife, Tour du Valat; Funding: MAVA Foundation, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Bright Future for Black Vulture in Bulgaria** (Partners: Green Balkans, VCF, FWFF, Junta de Extremadura; Funding: EU LIFE, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Protecting European wet meadows and pastures, in particular in the European Stork Villages** (Partners: European Stork Villages and their national conservation partners; Funding: Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), **Environmental education through school garden projects as part of the European Stork Villages Network initiative** (Partners: European Stork Villages and their national conservation partners; Funding: Manfred-Hermsen-Stiftung for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection, EuroNatur's donors)



Priority "Protecting large carnivores in Europe"

Funding spent on this priority: 550,000 Euro

Projects

Protecting brown bears in the Cantabrian Mountains (Partner: FAPAS; Funding: EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), Protecting brown bears in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro (Partners: CZIP, CZSS ; Funding: Bernd Thies Foundation, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), Protecting brown bears, lynx and grey wolves in the northern Dinarides (Partners: University of Zagreb, Carnivora Magna; Funding: EU LIFE, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme (Partners: MES, PPNEA, ERA, Stiftung Kora, Piensa-Stiftung, Funding: MAVA Foundation, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), Preventing the extinction of the Dinaric-South-Eastern Alpine lynx population through reinforcement and long-term conservation (Partners: University of Zagreb, Slovenia Forest Service, Hunters Association of Slovenia, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, Technical University in Zvolen, University of Ljubljana, Association Progetto Lince Italia, Karlovac University, Biom, ACDB, Italian Carabinieri special command unit for the protection of forests,

the environment, and the agri-food sector; Funding: EU LIFE, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors, and others), Protection of grey wolf populations that have recolonized central and western Poland (Partner: Wilk; Funding: Lappat Fund, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), Protection of the Polish-Czech wolf population (Partners: Hnutí Duha; 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), 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), Protecting the Mediterranean monk seal colony at Cap Blanc (Partner: CBD Habitat; Funding: EuroNatur's donors and sponsors), Protecting Mediterranean monk seals in the Eastern Adriatic (Partners: MÖm, PPNEA, CZIP, Biom; Funding: MSA, EuroNatur's donors and sponsors)

EURONATUR'S PROJECT FOCI IN 2021



Priority "Protecting Europe's last wilderness areas"

Funding spent on this priority: 435,000 Euro

Projects

Protecting old-growth and primeval forests in Romania (Partners: Agent Green, ClientEarth; Funding: Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection, Bristol Stiftung, Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation, Ludwig Raue Memorial Fund, EuroNatur's donors), **Ecological forest conversion of monoculture pine forests in Brandenburg to semi-natural mixed forests** (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, EuroNatur's donors)

Priority „Protecting species-rich cultural landscapes in Europe“

Funding spent on this priority: 166,000 Euro

Projects

Support for the protection and sustainable regional development of the Bosnian karst poljes Livanjsko and Duvanjsko Polje (Partners: Naše ptice, CZZS; Funding: MAVA Foundation, EuroNatur donors), **Promotion of extensive management of ecologically valuable meadows and pastures in Bulgaria by means of the Common European Agricultural Policy** (Partner: STEP; Funding: MAVA Foundation, EuroNatur donors), **Development of local transhumance for conservation and sustainable management of pastures in the Sakar Hills** (Partner: Green Balkans; Funding: EuroNatur donors), **Safeguarding two important bat roosts in Brandenburg and Poland** (Funding: Interreg, EuroNatur donors)

Priority "Agricultural policy, biodiversity policy, energy policy"

Funding spent on this priority: 437,000 Euro

Projects

Defending civil society's and nature's common good interests at EU policy level in Brussels (Funding: EuroNatur donors), **Engagement on behalf of the EU citizens' initiative "Save Bees and Farmers"** (Partners: Hnutí Duha, Europe-wide alliance of more than 100 organisations; Funding: Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection, EuroNatur donors), **RED4Nature campaign** (Partners: Riverwatch, Bankwatch, DPRS, Agent Green, ClientEarth; Funding: MAVA Foundation, Patagonia, Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection), **Critical position statement regarding the use of funds from the EU's Covid-19 recovery fund – known as the Recovery and Resilience Facility** (Partners: Bankwatch, DOPPS, Zelena Akcija, Hnutí Duha, Agent Green; Funding: MAVA Foundation)



Abbreviations

Partners:

ACDB: Association for the Biological Diversity Conservation
 AOS: Albanian Ornithological Society
 ATN: Association for Transhumance and Nature Conservation in Portugal
 Biom: BirdLife Croatia
 BPSSS: Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia
 CBD-Habitat: Foundation for the Conservation of Biodiversity and its Habitat in Spain
 CNVP: Connecting Natural Values and People
 CZIP: Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro
 CZZS: Center for Environment in Bosnia-Herzegovina
 DOPPS: BirdLife Slovenia
 DPRS: Slovenian Native Fish Society
 EGBA: European Green Belt Association
 ERA: Environmentally Responsible Action group
 Fapas: Wild animal protection fund
 FWFF: Fund for Wild Flora and Fauna
 HDZPP: Croatian Society for Bird and Nature Protection
 IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature
 IUCN ECARO: IUCN Eastern Europe and Central Asia
 Kora: Foundation for Carnivore Ecology and Wildlife Management in Switzerland
 MedINA: Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos
 MES: Macedonian Ecological Society
 MOM: Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal
 MSJA: Dr. Martin Schneider-Jacoby Association
 PPNEA: Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania
 SPP: Society for the Protection of Prespa
 STEP: Society for Territorial and Environmental Prosperity
 VCF: Vulture Conservation Foundation
 Wilk: Conservation Association "Wolf"
 WWF: World Wide Fund for Nature

Funding:

DBU: German Federal Environmental Foundation
 ERDF: European Regional Development Fund
 IPA: Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
 LIFE: L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement
 MSA: Monk Seal Alliance
 PONT: Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust



The EuroNatur-Team in May 2022 (from left): Marco Panista, Florian Hofmann, Elfrun Lindenthal, Marilena D'Auria, Gabriel Schwaderer, Bruna Campos, Matthias Heinrich, Christian Stielow, Anne Katrin Heinrichs, Sabine Günther, Dr. Stefan Ferger, Annette Spangenberg, Michael Fantinato, Dr. Amelie Huber, Markus Dressnandt, Tara Sukic, Thomas Freisinger, Sandra Wigger, Ines Fantinato, Katharina Grund, Ilka Beermann.





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