



Environmentally
Responsible
Action group

euRONATUR

BALKAN GREEN BELT PHOTO CONTEST

explore, capture, share...

Participate in the photo contest!

The nature of the Balkan Green Belt is home to an astonishing variety of landscapes and creatures. We invite all visitors and residents along the Balkan Green Belt to go on a journey of exploration and photograph the most beautiful motives and most impressive experiences.

Participation pays off!

The prizes are a privately guided hike in Rugova lead by the renowned Bjeshket e Nemuna expert Fatos Lajçi with an all-expenses paid overnight stay in ERA's Hajla cabin. In addition the prize-winning pictures will be represented on www.eradirect.org and www.europeangreenbelt.org.

Be part of the first Balkan Green Belt Photo Contest taking place in all of the nine countries along the Balkan Green Belt!

Who can take part?

Each person travelling along or visiting the Balkan Green Belt in Kosovo.

What are the prizes?

1. A hike in the Rugova mountains, guided, from renowned guide and expert of those mountains, Fatos Lajçi, sleepover in the Hajla Cabin.
2. One copy of "Guide to Photography: Photography Basics" from National Geographic.
3. Photo Exhibition in Haxhi Zeka's Mill

When is the closing date?

30th June 2016 Entry Deadline
30 July 2016 Winner Announcement

How can the photos be submitted?

The participation is free. Send your pictures to: greenbeltkosovo@gmail.com

Anëtarët e Jurisë janë:

- Fatos Lajçi
- Qenan Maxhuni
- Samir Karahoda

Fituesit do të shpallen në fund të muajit korrik 2016 në website dhe faqen e Facebook të Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA) group, www.eradirect.org and www.facebook.com/era-group.

Presim me padurim fotografitë tuaja!



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Jury Members



Fatos Lajçi

Executive Director of Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA) group, and well-known Bjeshket e Nemuna landscape and wildlife photographer. His photos have been featured in international tourism publications, including Kosovo Bradt Guide, and in Kosovo's State of the Nature reports.



Qenan Maxhuni

Biologist and ecologist responsible for biodiversity monitoring and research in Kosovo's Institute for Nature Protection/Ministry of Environment Spatial Planning, and serving as Kosovo National Focal Point for European Green Belt.



Samir Karahoda

Freelance photographer, cinematographer and short film programmer, and has worked for last 8 years as curator of the short film program in "Dokufest" in Prizren. His latest cinematographed short film "Column" is awarded with 15 International prizes and screened in more than 40 film festivals.



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Conditions of entry

Organisation:

There is no entry fee. The organisers will bear the organisational costs of the competition. The organisers are Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA) group (Kosovo) and EuroNatur (Germany). The competition is open to all persons who visited the Balkan Green Belt of the respective country. The closing date by which entries must arrive is 30th June 2016.

Subjects and judging:

Subject is the Balkan Green Belt part of the respective country. The jury will award prizes to the top 5 pictures.

The jury consists of:

1. Fatos Lajçi
2. Qenan Maxhuni
3. Samir Karahoda

For the jury members biography read the document [JuryMembers.pdf](#).

The prize-winning pictures will be represented through the websites of the organisers (www.eradirect.org) and europeangreenbelt.org. The jury's decisions are final. The organisers reserve the right to disqualify pictures that were obviously taken by infringing the code of conduct for wildlife photographers. This can be found at <http://www.euronatur.org/Code-of-conduct.736.0.html>. Digitally manipulated pictures and pictures that were not taken along the Balkan Green Belt of the respective country will not be accepted.

Pictures:

No more than 5 pictures may be entered per person. Entries shall be in the form of digital colour pictures, submitted by email at greenbeltkosovo@gmail.com (but no prints, no black and white photographs and no panorama formats).

The titles of digital picture files must contain the photographer's name and the name and number (1-5) of the picture (e.g. *MaxMueller_Brownbear_Croatia_1.jpg*). Pictures of animals or plants taken in controlled conditions (pen, botanical gardens or similar) must be identified by a "C" in the file name and contain corresponding information in the list of pictures.

Digital manipulation:

No subsequent modification of a picture or its content is permitted. Adding or removing animals, parts of animals, plants, unwanted elements, people etc. into/from the image is also not allowed.

List of pictures:

The entry must include a list of the pictures in Albanian, Serbian or English as pdf or Excel-file. In addition to the name, email and address of the photographer, picture title and number (1 to 5), this list must also provide a detailed description of the subject including the following information: date the picture was taken, species (if possible), location (country, region, habitat, nature reserve, etc.) as well as a short story about the development and background of the picture.

Entries submitted via greenbeltkosovo@gmail.com. No more than 5 pictures per person plus an accompanying list of the pictures may be entered. Entries can only be accepted if entrants abide the given instructions.

Copyright, liability and posting:

The copyright for all photos entered must be held by the photographer. The photographer retains the copyright to his/her pictures at all times and his/her name will appear alongside the photo whenever it is published. By entering the competition the contestant grants the competition organisers the right to use the photos entered free of charge for the following purposes:

- *The use of the photos to advertise the competition in the competition organisers' publications, on their websites and in press coverage.*
- *All prize-winning pictures may be used by the organiser EuroNatur and Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA) group for commercial sale of communication material and its advertisement, like calendars.*
- *All prize-winning pictures may be used by the organiser EuroNatur and Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA) group for an exhibition and its advertisement.*
- *The non-profit foundation EuroNatur and Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA) group have the right to use the prize-winning photos in their own publications to advertise their conservation projects at the Balkan Green Belt. Pictures that have been entered but have not won prizes will only be used for the above purposes after consultation with the photographer and by contractual agreement.*

The use of the photos beyond the above-mentioned purposes may only proceed after consultation with the photographer. Rights to pictures may not be held by agencies or publishers. The organisers do not accept any liability for claims of third parties.

For more information:

Environmentally Responsible Action group

Address: Mulliri i Haxhi Zekës; 30000 Peja, Republic of Kosovo

Mob: +377 (0)44 337 601; +386 (0)49 204 421

E-mail: info@eradirect.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/eragroup



Protecting Biodiversity in the Balkans - Strengthening cooperation along the Balkan Green Belt

The project "Protecting Biodiversity in the Balkans - Strengthening cooperation along the Balkan Green Belt" started in January 2015 and has a total duration of 24 months. It is jointly implemented by IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe and EuroNatur and funded by the German Environmental Foundation.

In the frame of the project key NGO partners from the nine countries located at the Balkan Green Belt shall be involved through grants/contracts for service to support the implementation of several project activities. The details are described below.

Project Background

The project aims at the conservation of a transboundary ecological network along the border of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Romania through the enhancement of cooperation along the Balkan Green Belt.

The project focuses on the Balkan Green Belt as southernmost part of the European Green Belt. The regional level is in the center of all activities which aim at increasing the awareness and visibility of the Balkan Green Belt and at improving cooperation and exchange between the players at the Balkan Green Belt. Eventually, the foreseen activities will contribute to improved protection of biodiversity at the Balkan Green Belt.

The Balkan Peninsula is a hot spot for biodiversity in Europe and the Balkan Green Belt has developed as very valuable retreat for rare plant and animal species due to its history as border zone between East and West for four decades with limited access and reduced land-use pressure. On European level the European Green Belt Initiative was established in 2003 and it developed as main driver for the creation of a backbone of an ecological network running from the Barents to the Black and Adriatic Seas. Since 2011 the European Green Belt Initiative was filled with new life, leading to the establishment of the European Green Belt Association in September 2014. Despite all efforts and successes on the pan-European level the regions are at the heart of the European Green Belt. Therefore, this project will contribute to increase the awareness of the importance of the Balkan Green Belt as well as improve coordination and focus within the region. Eventually, the project aims also at stimulating activities in the course of the Balkan Green Belt. The project is closely linked with the pan-European level so that all activities and results are inte-

The objectives of the project are the following:

- To raise the profile of the Balkan Green Belt and the awareness of the importance of biodiversity conservation and ecological networks in the region and beyond.
- To improve transboundary cooperation along the Balkan Green Belt through increased regional support to the initiative and its objectives by coordinating a regional process with particular involvement of local partner organisations.
- To improve the basis of decision-making and awareness-raising on biodiversity and protected areas along the Balkan Green Belt.

Activity	Objectives
1.2 Photo Contest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Raise awareness on Balkan Green Belt- Illustrate the Balkan Green Belt (e.g. web & other media)- Actively involve public and key stakeholders on a local/regional level
1.4 Green Belt Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Raise awareness on Balkan Green Belt- Actively involve public along the Balkan Green Belt into its conservation

For more information visit www.europeangreenbelt.org

