

## Balkan Green Belt Photo Contest 2016

### Participate in the photo contest!

Along the former "Iron Curtain", which divided Europe into East and West for nearly 40 years, a unique "green" zone was developed; an ecological corridor that crosses 24 countries became a secluded refuge for many endangered species as it consisted of strictly supervised military areas. So, the then divided Europe helped, without realizing it, in the maintenance of valuable habitats from the Barents Sea in the Russian - Norwegian border up to the Black Sea and the northern border of Greece in the Balkans. The [European Green Belt](#) Network was established in 2003 by the need to bring together state authorities', national parks, scientists and non-governmental organizations that were active, for the protection of the natural environment and the promotion of sustainable development along this area. The southernmost part of the European Green Belt is the Balkan Green Belt, which mainly includes the mountain ranges and some of the most extraordinary lakes and rivers in the Balkans.



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\* In accordance with UNSCR 1244 and opinion of ICJ.



The nature of the Balkan Green Belt is home to an astonishing variety of landscapes and creatures. Here people live in close relationship with the natural environment and a step away from their neighbors, with whom they share the same waters and the same mountains.

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. In particular, we are interesting in exciting images from the Greek parts of the Balkan Green Belt that shows the extraordinary biodiversity of the area, as well the long-term relationship between the man and the nature. So if you are living or happened to travelling in places such as:

- the river Kalamas
- the mountain ranges of Grammos and Northern Pindos
- the lakes of Prespa and the surrounding mountains
- the mountain of Kaimaktsalan
- the lakes Doiran and Kerkini, and also the mountain Beles
- the Rhodope mountain range
- and the river Evros

or any other border area from Epirus to Thrace,



take your camera, search for astonishing places, interesting species, nice looking flowers or unique human activities capturing the character of the area.

### **Participation pays off!**

The prizes are guided tours in National Parks of the area, for a fuller experience of the Balkan Green Belt and astonishing photo albums from Greek sites along the Green Belt. In addition the prize-winning pictures will be represented on *websites of the organisers* [www.spp.gr](http://www.spp.gr) and [www.europeangreenbelt.org](http://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, visiting or living in the Balkan Green Belt in Greece.

### **What are the prizes?**

1. A special guided tour at Prespa Lakes, offered by Society for the Protection of Prespa and the book "Prespa: a story for Man and Nature", Giorgos Catsadorakis
2. A special guided tour at Kerkini Lake, offered by the Management Authority of Lake Kerkini and the photo album "Reflections on Kerkini", Nikos Petrou

3. A special guided tour at the Rhodope mountain range, offered by the Management Authority of the Rhodope Mountain Range and the book “Colors of the Forest: Rhodope”, Kostas Vidakis – Nikos Petrou

### **When is the closing date?**

30<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### **How can the photos be submitted?**

The participation is free. Send your pictures to: [b.greenbelt.photocontest.SPP@gmail.com](mailto:b.greenbelt.photocontest.SPP@gmail.com) or upload them to our [Facebook](#) page.

### **This is the jury**

- **Elena Efeoglou** – Visual Artist – Photographer, School of Fine Arts, Faculty of Visual and Applied Arts, University of Western Macedonia, responsible for the Photography Workshop
- **Thanos Kastritis** – Programme Director, Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP)
- **Elisavet Konstantinidou** - Head of Drama Forestry Service
- **Theodoros Naziridis** – General Director, Management Authority of Lake Kerkini
- **Nikos Petrou** – Nature and Wildlife Photographer, Chairman of the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature

The winners will be announced by the end of July 2016 on the website of SPP [www.spp.gr](http://www.spp.gr).

**We are looking forward to your pictures!**



## Balkan Green Belt Photo Contest

### Conditions of entry

**Organisation.** There is no entry fee. The organisers will bear the organisational costs of the competition. The organisers are Society for the Protection of Prespa (Greece) and EuroNatur (Germany). The competition is open to all persons who visited or live in the Balkan Green Belt of Greece, which contains the mountains, lakes and rivers close to the northern border of the country. The closing date by which entries must arrive is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

**Subjects and judging.** Subject is the Balkan Green Belt part of Greece. The jury will award prizes to the top 3 pictures.

The jury consists of Elena Efeoglou (University of Western Macedonia - School of Fine Arts), Thanos Kastritis (SPP), Elisavet Konstantinidou (Forestry Service of Drama), Theodoros Naziridis (Management Authority of Lake Kerkini) and Nikos Petrou (Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature).

The prize-winning pictures will be represented through the websites of the organisers and [www.europeangreenbelt.org](http://www.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 or as upload (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 Greek 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 [b.greenbelt.photocontest.SPP@gmail.com](mailto:b.greenbelt.photocontest.SPP@gmail.com) or SPP's [Facebook](#) page. 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.



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**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 SPP for commercial sale of communication material and its advertisement, like calendars.

All prize-winning pictures may be used by the organiser EuroNatur and SPP for an exhibition and its advertisement.

The non-profit foundation EuroNatur and the environmental NGO SPP 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.

Further information:

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