





Nature-Based Tourism as a Contributor to Regional Sustainable Development

International Symposium * May 5-8, 2019 * Hymeti's Palace Hotel, Pogradec (Albania)

Hosted by the Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation in cooperation with BalkaNatureNet (BNN) and Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA).

Symposium Program

May 5, 2019	Arrival Day / Symposium Kick-Off	
morning/mid-day	International participants arrive in Tirana	
15:00 – 18:00	Bus shuttle from Tirana to the symposium	Pick-up at Tirana Airport,
	venue; check-in at the hotel (all	transfer to Hotel Hymeti's
	participants)	Palace, Pogradec
18:30	Welcome Reception at Hymeti's Palace, Pogradec	Speakers:
	Welcome Addresses	Prof. Dr. Pellumb Abeshi
		General Director of
		Environmental Policies
		Ministry of Tourism and
		Environment of Albania
		Aleksandër Trajçe, PhD Executive Director, Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA)
		Eduard Kapri (tbc) Mayor of Pogradec
		Mihallaq Qirjo (tbc) Director, Regional Administration of Protected Areas Korca
	Short video on the Ohrid-Prespa Ecoregion	PONT
	Key Note: An Introduction to the Prespa	Dhori Spirollari (tbc)
	and Ohrid Region (<i>preliminary title</i>)	Prefecture of Korçë Region
	Followed by dinner	
May 6, 2019	Symposium	
8:00 – 9:30	Coffee and Participant Registration (Breakfast also available for local participants)	Hymeti's Palace
9:30	Conference Opening	Zamir Dedej
		Director General, National
		Agency for Protected Areas for
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	Borders do not matter. Nature does.	Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania
		Albania (NAPA)
		Vlatko Trpeski (tbc) Head of Department for Nature, Ministry of Environment and Physical
		Planning, North Macedonia
		Dierk Weinhold Ministry of the Environment, Energy, Building and Climate Protection, Lower Saxony, Germany
10:30	Introduction to the Conference Format and Scope	Dr. Eick von Ruschkowski Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation
11:00	Key Note: Nature-based Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals: Opportunities and Challenges	Ardiana Mici, PhD Korca University, Albania
12:00	Lunch	
13:30	Case Studies on Strategic Approaches for the Conservation of Natural Resources on the Balkan: Why wo we need to protect our natural resources and how do we succeed?	
	Decision Work Frame for identifying priority areas for the conservation of biodiversity in Romania	Dr. Volker Wachendörfer & Dr. Alexander Bittner German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU)
	Balkans GeM – Generating momentum on water and forests in the Balkans	Anela Stavrevska-Panajotova Project Manager, Connecting Natural Values & People Foundation, Skopje, North Macedonia
14:30	Funding for Sustainable Regional Development and Conservation: Current State and Opportunities	
	Support to economic diversification of rural areas in South Eastern Europe (SEDRA) – GIZ measures for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Prespa Ohrid Region"	Anica Palazzo Advisor, Support to Economic Diversification of Rural Areas in South Eastern Europe (SEDRA)
	The Open Regional Fund for South East Europe – Implementation of Biodiversity Agreements (ORF BDU)	Ekrem Hyseni GIZ ORF BDU Project Country Coordinator in Kosovo

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	Support to sustainable tourism	Constanze Schaaff
	development in the frame of the project	Chief Technical Advisor/Team
	"Transboundary Biosphere Reserve	Leader, GFA Group
	Prespa", Phase II. A development project	,
	of the Republic of Albania, co-financed by	
	the Federal Republic of Germany through	
	KfW Development Bank	
15:30	Coffee Break	
16:00	Showcasing examples of nature-based	
	tourism in Southeastern Europe – How can	
	we sustainably use our natural capital	
	while raising awareness about it?	
	Coop Study 4. May natain Biling in	Takina Casalan
	- Case Study 1: Mountain Biking in	Tobias Gessler
	the Prespa Ohrid Region	Ride Albania
	Casa Study 2: Pird watching in	Emanuel Lisichanets
	- Case Study 2: Bird-watching in	Emanuel Lisichanets
	North Macedonia	
	Case Study 2. Land of Faciles and	Adinian Tani
	- Case Study 3: Land of Eagles and	Mirjan Topi
	Castles	PPNEA
	Coop Study As Footonsians in Dodge	Claudin Ingra
	- Case Study 4: Ecotourism in Rodna	Claudiu Iusan
	Mountains National Park as a tool	Rodna National Park, Romania
	for nature conservation	
	- Case Study 5: Nature-based	Andon Bojadzi
	tourism in Galičica National Park	Galičica National Park, North
		Macedonia
	- Case Study 6: Shara Mountain	Frosina Pandurska
	- Case Study 7: Assessment of	Oana Viorica Danci
	anthropogenic impact on the	Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu,
	Pietrele and Red Valleys in Retezar	Romania
	National Park	Komama
	National Falk	
	- Case Study 8: "Time Travel" as a	Aysegul Cil
	method for nature-based tourism	Lush Nature Consultancy,
		Turkey
10.20	in Giresun, Turkey	,
18:30	Summary of Day 1 / Lessons learned /	Klaudja Koci/Eick von
10.00	Discussion	Ruschkowski
19:00	End of Day 1	
(19:00-19:30)	Side Meeting for BalkaNatureNet members	
19:30	Conference Dinner	
May 7, 2019	Symposium	
8:30	Region-Specific Nature-Based Tourism:	Hilke Feddersen & Inga Albers
0.30	·	_
	The Regional Benefits of Nature-Based	Lüneburg Heath Nature Park /
	Tourism and the Concept of Certified	Jesteburg Tourism Office
	Nature and Landscape Interpreters in the	

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	Lüneburg Heath Nature Park, Germany	
9:15	Local nature guide training in Bulgaria and	Dorothe Lütkemöller
	Albania	terolog gGmbH, Germany
10:00	Coffee break	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
10:30	World Café	Four World Café Tables (15
	Identifying Regional Needs in Nature	minutes each)
	Conservation, Recreation and Tourism for	Facilitators:
	the Prespa-Ohrid Region	Verena Harms, Thomas Fish,
		BNN Members (tbd)
11:45	Presentation of world café results and	
	Discussion	
12:30	Lunch	
14:00	Workshops:	Workshop Leaders:
	Capacity Building 1: Mapping and	Thomas Fish, PhD
	Inventorying our Natural Capital	HumaNature
	Assets – Community Mapping	
	Excercise	
	2. Capacity Building 2: Developing	Hilke Feddersen, Lüneburg
	Nature-Based Tourism Activities in	Heath Nature Park
	the Prespa and Ohrid Regions –	
	German-Albanian Partnerships	
	3. Capacity Building 3: Training	Dorothe Lütkemöller
	Future Nature Guides	terolog gGmbH
	4. Capacity Building 4: Conservation	N.N.
	across borders – Enhancing	BalkaNatureNet
	International Collaboration Across	
	the Balkan Countries	
16:00	Presentation and discussion of workshop	Moderator: Eick von
	results	Ruschkowski
17:00	Closing remarks and future outlook	BNN/PPNEA/PONT
17:30	End of Day 2	
18:00	Departure to Tirana for participants with	
	an early morning flight on the next day	
18:00	Dinner for those remaining in the region	
May 8, 2019	Field Trip / Departure	
8:00	Shuttle to Tirana for later departures	
Optional:	Full-day field trip on Lake Ohrid	After conclusion of the field
	(Albania/North Macedonia); visit to St.	trip, shuttle to Tirana
	Naum Monastry	(international participants).

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