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Three years of DAI

Enlargement of DAI

In 2008, the Regional Environmental Center (REC) became a member of DAI.

Big Win for Dinaric Arc

On 29 May 2008, in Bonn, six countries of the Dinaric Arc Ecoregion joined forces to protect their rich natural heritage by enlarging their protected area systems, improving management planning effectiveness particularly in a trans-boundary context. This major commitment stems from the recognition that the natural and cultural wealth of the Dinaric region is a critical asset on which social and economic development can be based.

Protecting this natural and cultural wealth can only be achieved with close cooperation between the countries of the Dinaric Arc. DAI members fully supported this regional initiative.

Joint DAI project formulation - Community-based Rural Development and Natural Resource Management in the Dinara Area

In April 2008 a multidisciplinary team of international and national experts from DAI partner organizations set out to create a joint project to support sustainable rural development and natural resource management of the Livanjsko and Sinjsko Polje areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. The team held meetings with stakeholders in the area, including the Ministries of Agriculture, the Environment and the Economy, representatives of tourism boards, farmers' associations and NGOs. Field visits were made to farms, rural communities and tourism businesses. A broad range of topics were discussed and stakeholders' needs were identified. Based on the findings, the team formulated a project proposal for submission to international donors.

The project focuses on fostering the development of agricultural commodity chains, based on high quality and value-added products of the region. Developing rural tourism will contribute to the diversification of income sources for rural populations. The project will also promote the natural and cultural values linked to karst poljes and their surrounding areas, and support cross-border river basin management and sustainable management of grasslands.

Joint DAI project formulation - The Prokletije/Bjeshkët e Namuna Cross-Border Rural Development Programme

DAI partner organisations worked together throughout 2008 to develop a cross-border project for the Prokletije/ Bjeshket e Namuna mountains, a remote region shared between Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro. Inadequate physical and institutional infrastructure, absence of investment and entrepreneurship, lack of long-term, comprehensive land use planning, and too narrow a perspective has led to a widespread feeling of neglect and massive emigration and rural abandonment. In order to best meet the needs of the region and assess the way forward a planning team met with a wide range of organisations and individuals throughout the region. The central objective of the programme is to improve the social and economic conditions of people in the region, with significant trans-national ecological and peace building elements included. The Prokletije project provides a unique opportunity not only to make a positive and transforming impact on the lives of some of the poorest people in Europe, but also to make a lasting contribution to one of the remaining unspoilt areas of the region. It has the added value of bringing tangible benefits of peace to communities that have often been torn by strife, and establishing a model of trans-national cooperation and cross-border development that will stand as an example and inspiration for future generations across Europe.

Joint DAI project formulation - Sustaining Rural Communities and their Traditional Landscapes through Environmental Governance in Transboundary Protected Areas (TBPA) of the Dinaric Arc

The overall objective of this programme is to strengthen the sustainable development of rural communities and the conservation of cultural landscapes in the Dinaric Arc region towards increasing regional trans-boundary cooperation in the management and conservation of cultural landscapes and biodiversity for the benefit of rural communities. The proposed programme will undertake a broad range of activities around Trans-boundary Protected Areas in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia.