

Dear,

I would like to inform you that work programme agreed at the 1st Annual meeting of the WG on Nature held in Zagreb on 28 October 2010 has been approved by the European Commission and that accordingly we'll be holding 6 training modules in the region's cross-border nature protected areas. The tentative agenda is the following:

1. Kopački Rit nature park and Gornje Podunavlje special nature reserve (**10 – 12 May 2011**: 3 days workshop)
2. Dojran Lake (**6 – 8 September 2011**: 3 days)
3. Derdap National Park (**3 – 5 October 2011**: 3 days)
4. Shara Mountain (2012)
5. Tara (2012)
6. Durmitor (2012)

The detailed set up of the 6 module training programme, including the topics are presented in **Annex 1** to this letter

RENA's activities have been designed in such a way that they focus on the link between the implementation of Nature Management plans according to the requirements as per Habitats Directive and strengthening the local economy (creating business and revenues in cross border areas).

Economic development, good governance, income generation in particular employment and jobs for young people, education, mobility, infrastructure development, or the private sector development in general are in fact among the most vital development topics throughout the entire of Balkan region. However, for many of those regions, in particular for the often-remote transboundary zones, those key development topics cannot be separated completely from natural resource management, because the latter offer the only basis for income generation and employment.

Therefore one outstanding feature of the RENA activities would be to take up those economic highly relevant development topics and to combine them with natural resource management. The objective would be to focus on creating business and employment opportunities in those transboundary areas, where natural resource management represents one, if not the only important added value, which can be utilized to the benefit of the local society and only with cross-border collaboration.

Overall this situation offers important opportunities: RENA could trigger the development of a regional network of cross-border organizations, which could expand their focus on the socio-economic development of transboundary areas in combination with natural resource management in transboundary areas - a highly relevant combination and a key development for many Balkan regions.

The visit to Kopački rit and Gornje Podunavlje area took place between 14-16 February with an objective to assess the organisational and logistical possibilities of holding a training event. The Kopački rit nature park proved to provide everything that we might need for a 3-day workshop; a modern conference room with all the facilities, a restaurant near by as well as hotels in the near vicinity in the cities of Osijek or Beli Manastir. **The date for the first workshop is set for 10-12 May. (travel to site on 9 May and travel back on 12 May or 13 May).**

The purpose of this 10-12 May workshop is to transfer knowledge on:

- the elements of the Nature legislation of the EU,
- the process of developing sound nature sites management plans and
- linking local economic activities with sites management planning and implementation

The proposed Nature RENA programme is attached to Annex 1 to this letter.

The proposed agenda for the meeting is attached in Annex 2 to this letter.

Set-up of RENA training programme

Based on the results of the inception missions in June, July and August 2010 and the Annual Nature Work Group meeting on 28 October 2010 in Zagreb, a six module training workshop is proposed.

The target group for the training workshops will be split into two groups:

Group 1: High level nature experts from the relevant Ministries of all the RENA countries (**three nominated** experts per RENA country, who will attend **all modules**): In total 24 participants per module;

Group 2: Local site managers (eg park management) together with local stakeholders (maximum participants from the cross border region: 6 per country: From each RENA country 2 representatives from Municipalities; 2 representatives from local business community; and 2 representatives from the Nature Protection Areas (site managers). In case a selected pilot site concerns two countries, there will be in total 12 local representatives.

Table : Summary RENA Nature training package Module 1:

Day 1		Day 2 and 3	
Topic	Target Group	Topic	Target Group
Module 1: Development and Implementation of Nature Sites Management Plans Location: Kopacki Rit, Croatia 10 – 12 May, 2011	Group 1: 3 Ministry National Experts per RENA country Total 24 participants	Practical Development and Implementation of Nature Site Management Plans Creating Business and Revenues in Cross Border Areas	Group 2: maximum 18 local participants: 6 local representatives + site managers per involved country: Croatia; Serbia; Hungary Group 1: maximum 7 RENA representatives (2 from Serbia, 3 from Croatia, 2 from Turkey) Trilateral cooperation site: 25 participants

We kindly ask you to nominate **up to three experts** dealing with nature protected areas, national parks and nature legislation, dealing/or will be dealing with Natura 2000 and other ecological networks from your country for this meeting.

These experts will attend the training modules designed for Group 1. As the training modules under Group 1 will be different for each of the cross border sites, the idea is that same group of participants from each country attend all six modules in 2011 and 2012. Therefore, please bear in mind during the nomination that nominated participants **are expected to follow all modules** in 2011 (two more meetings) and 2012 (three more meetings).

The representatives of Group 1 from Serbia, Croatia and Turkey are invited to attend all three days (Group 1 and Group 2 training modules).

Other participants for training module under Group 2 are already arranged in direct contact with authorities sharing the cross border site (Croatia, Serbia and Hungary).

On this occasion the representatives from Kosovo¹, FYR of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Montenegro are invited to attend only training module under Group 1. They will attend training modules under Group 2 during other training modules. The participation in Group 2 is designed on a routing basis, and all participants will be enabled to attend training modules under Group 2 at least once.

¹ Under UNSCR 1244/99



The participants will be accommodated in hotel Osijek, Osijek, Croatia. As usual the RENA secretariat will cover the costs of travel and participation costs (hotel and dinners, international and local transport to the training site, etc.).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

We are looking forward to meet your experts in Croatia on 10 – 12 May, 2011. The RENA secretariat in Vienna will contact the RENA Nature Working Group coordinators of your country to discuss and agree the logistical arrangements for the participation of your experts.

Yours sincerely

Imre Csikós, Team Leader RENA Climate Working Group.

Enclosed:

Annex 1. Activity 3.1 Work Plan

Annex 2. Draft Agenda

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ANNEX 1: WORKING GROUP 3: CROSS BORDER COOPERATION AND MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Activity 3.1. Nature Protection

1. Background

During the period June – August 2010 inception mission have been implemented to the eight beneficiary countries to discuss the Nature Component of WG 3 (Cross Border Cooperation) of RENA.

The starting point for discussions in the countries included a draft Activity Schemes Working Document on the subgroup Natura which was sent to the National Focal Points before the meetings in June 2010. Discussions focused on the elements of this Working Document which follows the ToR:

- Task 1: Establishment of Nature Protection Working Group and organization of annual meetings;
- Task2: Training needs assessment / identification of case studies and/or pilot projects to be implemented;
- Task 3: Elaboration of training programme: preparation of materials for pilot projects and/or case studies;
- Task 4: Implementation of training programme;
- Task 5: Training evaluation and assessment of further capacity building needs, alignment of initiatives with donors.

A questionnaire was added to have a preliminary view on training needs.

From the inception missions it became clear that most countries and territories included in the project area understand the necessity to increase the number and/or size of their protected areas.

However, it should be noted here, that the vast majority of protected areas existing today in the region are relatively small areas of less than 10,000 ha. Such small areas may be suitable for protection of e.g. landscape phenomena or threatened plant species, but rather not for protection of larger fragments of valuable mountain ecosystems and habitats, and definitely not for protecting populations of large mammals, especially carnivores.

Protecting larger parts of the most important ecosystems and habitats of the region is mainly possible in existing and planned large-scale protected areas, most often bearing the national park designation. At the same time, most of these areas have a geographical transboundary dimension. Currently existing terrestrial large-scale protected areas in the project region are the national parks Sutjeska (17350 ha) in Bosnia and Herzegovina connecting to Durmitor (32 000 ha) in Montenegro, the Shara Mountains (39 000 ha) in the territory of Kosovo², linking to Shara mountains and Mavrovo National Park (73 088 ha) in fYR of Macedonia, Galicica (22 750 ha), and Pelister (12 500 ha) in fYR of Macedonia, Djerdap (63 608 ha) in Serbia, linked to Romania, Fruska Gora (25 393 ha), Tara (19 175 ha) (Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Kopaonik (11 810 ha) in Serbia. The above listed national parks together encompass the area of 316 674 ha, which accounts for as much as some 34.75 per cent of all areas currently protected in the Western Balkans (excluding Turkey). Finally, the picture is incomplete without mentioning big national parks protecting important aquatic ecosystems like the Lake Prespa (27 750 ha) in Albania or the Skadar Lake (40 000 ha) in Montenegro.

Croatia has (almost) transposed most of the requirements of the EU nature legislation *acquis*, while Serbia is working on establishing their Natura 2000 sites and transposing EU nature legislation in the framework of an IPA twinning project. In FYROM many nature related activities take place, but limited progress is seen in the establishment of proposed Natura 2000 sites through the designation of SPAs and SCIs. The Netherlands provides capacity building projects in the field of the EU *acquis* in nature protection. In BiH it is reported that approximately 20% of Birds and Habitats directives are transposed and that substantial more work needs to be done. In Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo some limited initiatives exist in relation to transposing the EU Nature *acquis*, but this is not yet addressed in a systematic way. Turkey's concern for nature conservation is not new; its first national park was created in 1958. A wide range of protected areas have been established: national parks, nature parks, Ramsar sites, etc. The number of

² Under UNSCR 1244/99

protected areas has increased steadily over the last few years. The area of forest cover has remained constant, and forests are sustainably managed. Efforts have been made regarding on-site conservation of the country's genetic resources, and studies on native species have been conducted. Turkey has ratified most international agreements on biodiversity and nature conservation. The proportion of endangered or vulnerable species is nevertheless quite high, particularly in the case of mammals (22 per cent). The destruction or transformation of biotopes is continuing, largely as a result of the very rapid development of tourism, urbanisation, and major construction projects in rural areas. Protected areas themselves are subject to many pressures (siting of tourism projects, irrigation, overgrazing, pollution of wetlands, forest fires, illegal hunting, etc.); management plans are sorely lacking. Protected areas cover only 3.9 per cent of the country's total land area due to overgrazing. Local communities and environmental NGOs have not been closely enough involved in planning nature conservation programmes.

The above trends are also confirmed in the annual progress reports prepared by the European Commission to inform the European Parliament and the Council on progress made in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

So it is clear, that most countries, with the exception of Croatia, are still at the very beginning of implementing the necessary and ambitious steps towards the transposition of the EU nature *acquis*. Overall no or limited progress was made on nature protection, as is confirmed in the EU 2009 Annual Progress Reports for all the RENA countries.

It should be stressed that the simple transposition of the EU nature legislation is not the only necessary pre-conditions for the required changes. Even the combined knowledge of scientists, appreciation of natural values of expanded cross border territories proposed for protection and the enthusiasm of environmental NGOs are insufficient for this. Initiatives concerning such considerable extension of protected areas would never be successful without the nation-wide consensus, understanding and support, which will then foster political commitment of the decision-makers and allow implementing such changes. Therefore, significant extension of protected areas would require reaching the adequate level of awareness among the whole society, but also determining the proper legal solutions for the newly proposed or much enlarged protected areas, allowing a compromise with the present landusers. Depending on the tourist attractiveness of the park and accessibility of its location, the local inhabitants and entrepreneurs, especially those involved in tourist services sector (e.g. infrastructure owners, service providers or tour-operators) may significantly increase their incomes, as the 'national park label' becomes still more attractive marketing brand, also in the south-eastern Europe.

Related nature project initiatives in the region

Annex 1 presents the ongoing, recently completed and planned **cross-border** nature activities ("in the pipeline") in the region. Representatives from Turkey indicated that the development of initiatives for cross border nature projects is at this moment politically "a step too far". As a consequence, cross border nature projects are not pursued at this stage by Turkey.

From the annex it appears that a surprising number of cross border activities take place in the region. The biggest regional initiative is the so called Dinaric Arc Initiative, consisting of a long list of national and transboundary nature projects. Most of the activities range from relatively small (up to 20000 Euros) to large (Lake Prespa, Neretva delta) ones.

The project consists of many project initiatives, some cross border oriented, some more national oriented, some with modest budgets up to 20,000 Euro (WWF boosting tourism in Durmitor) and some very large up to 22 million USD (UNDP Coastal biodiversity conservation in Dalmatia). The Dinaric Arc project portfolio includes 42 projects in the Western Balkans targeting the above mentioned areas. Among these projects the following are identified that have been implemented in a transboundary context.

In 2000 three transboundary projects on Nature protection were launched by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) involving 6 countries, aimed at establishing and restoring the dialogue across political borders in the Balkan Peninsula. The projects focused on the joint cross-border management of a common territory and shared natural resources, which proved to be a very fertile ground for dialogue promotion and a very good entry point for this peace-building process in a difficult post-war situation.

Three representative transboundary sites with important ecological qualities, different management regimes, threats and protection status were identified: Shkodra Lake / Skadar Lake between Albania and Montenegro, the Neretva Delta corresponding to the lower part of the Neretva River between Bosnia Herzegovina and Croatia and the mountain ridge of West Stara Planina between Bulgaria and Serbia.

After 8 years this important project was closed in February 2009. The most important result is the foundation of independent, legally registered organizations in the form of NGOs, which are the continuation of the already well established Transboundary Collaboration Forums on each side of the border for all three sites. Those Forums first started as informal platforms, initiating regular contacts, meetings, working groups and first small cross-border projects. Gradually - with the continuous effort of the site-coordinators, who played a crucial role in this process and who are to a large extent responsible for the success of the project - the Forums gained the position and recognition of permanent structures

Besides the Forums a large spectrum of other results have been achieved such as the publication of numerous bibliographies and books on the values of the natural resources, the production of promotion material like calendars and brochures, or the performance of baseline studies, capacity building workshops, technical assistance to communities or nature park authorities and small grant programmes.

One of the conclusions is, that natural resource management is a door opener for re-establishing the so important cross-border collaboration of the various stakeholders. However, it is by itself not a sufficient contribution for the local and regional development. As a consequence the newly established Forum organizations have extended their scope and range of activities. According their statutes and objectives they now combine natural resource management much more with important economic and social issues for communal and regional development such as the promotion of eco-tourism, waste and water management, agriculture, land management or good governance and civil society representation.

The transboundary organisations

- **Skadar Lake: Skadar / Shkodra Lake Forum (SLF):** 2 organisations established in Albania and Montenegro in January/May 2008. Statement and agreement of cooperation signed on 2 February 2009 at the occasion of the international Wetland Day (Ramsar Day)
- **Neretva Delta: Neretva Delta Forum (NDF):** 2 organisations established in Bosnia&Herzegovina and Croatia in January 2008. Statement and agreement of cooperation signed on 6 February 2008 at the Nature Park Hutovo Blato
- **West Stara Planina :Establishment of Stara Planina Euroregion in 2007** with two independent associations on Serbian and Bulgarian side

The common feature of most of the above projects is that they focus on initiatives to secure the preservation of the ecological wealth and ecological integrity of the of the region through establishment of network of protected areas, cultural diversity, empowering local societies in their efforts for sustainable development, and to some extent the integration of the requirements of the EU nature protection *acquis* (Wildbirds and Habitats directives) in the other sectoral policies and practices.

One of the major lessons learned from these projects and initiatives is that with the end of the projects, the activities have difficulty to ensure continuity and sustainability of the deployed activities on the ground.

For instance, the above identified new Forum organizations may origin from a long-lasting dialogues process; they are today in a difficult and delicate start-up phase. With the end of the project, they have to establish an independent and sustainable functioning in terms of financial, institutional and human resource. There is a considerable risk that those capacities cannot be built up and maintained rapidly enough, because each of the founded organisations is by itself still small and dependent on local projects and public capacities.

Feedback provided from the beneficiaries during the inception missions give the impression that the organisations still (formally) exist, but that current activities of these organisations seem to be put at a low level. For instance no evidence of follow-up on the nature cross border projects involving these organisations could be detected.

Proposed RENA nature activities

The Nature component of RENA is small, compared to above initiatives. This means that it is necessary to define projects that **are building on the above projects, avoid duplication** and are **complementary** to these.

A solution would be to deal with natural resource management in a broader context. RENA's activities have been designed in such a way that they focus on the link between the implementation of Nature Management plans and strengthening the local economy (creating business and revenues in cross border areas).

Economic development, good governance, income generation in particular employment and jobs for young people, education, mobility, infrastructure development, or the private sector development in general are in fact among the most vital development topics throughout the entire of Balkan region. However, for many of those regions, in particular for the often-remote transboundary zones, those key development topics cannot be separated completely from natural resource management, because the latter offer the only basis for income generation and employment.

Therefore one outstanding feature of the RENA activities would be to take up those economic highly relevant development topics and to combine them with natural resource management. The objective would be to focus on creating business and employment opportunities in those transboundary areas, where natural resource management represents one, if not the only important added value, which can be utilized to the benefit of the local society and only with cross-border collaboration.

Overall this situation offers important opportunities: RENA could trigger the development of a regional network of cross-border organizations, which could expand their focus on the socio-economic development of transboundary areas in combination with natural resource management in transboundary areas - a highly relevant combination and a key development for many Balkan regions.

At the ReREP Regional Meeting in Sarajevo on 29 May 2009 on nature protection in the region ("Towards Natura 2000 in South Eastern Europe"), special attention was paid to the potential of further developing transboundary nature projects in the region building on the experiences in the above mentioned projects.

RENA has the ambition to assist in putting to the foreground and stimulate these important transboundary cooperation processes in the region. During the above Sarajevo meeting many potential transboundary projects were mentioned. During the inception missions the status of these projects were assessed and each RENA country has identified and proposed sites where RENA activities can be developed (Table 1).

Table 1: Proposed Cross Border Nature Protection Initiatives in the Region (proposed by RENA countries following inception mission)

Nr	Proposed Cross Border initiatives where RENA activities can be implemented	Proposed by
1	Build on trilateral cooperation with Albania, FYR of Macedonia and Kosovo. Trans-boundary project connecting Korabi Protected Landscape, Mavrovo National Park and Shara National Park with Albania, FYR of Macedonia and Kosovo. Shara is already NP in Kosovo. In FYR of Macedonia the Shara NP is in preparation The Shar Planina massif is located between the Gostivar and Tetovo valleys in the south-east, the Mavrovo Lake on the south and the Korab massif in the west. From the west side, the massif enters the Albanian territory with a little tiny part, while its northern and north-western parts lie on the territory of Kosovo where the area is a designated national park. The area is considered important as a north south and east west migration route for brown bear and lynx.	Albania, FYR of Macedonia and Kosovo
2	Build on trilateral cooperation with Serbia, Hungary and Croatia in the project Danube-Drava-Mura: Special Nature Reserve Gornje podunavlje Gornje Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve is a large protected area of wetland in the northwest of Serbia (Vojvodina province). It comprises two big marshes along the left bank of the Danube River - the Monostor and Apatin marsh, including 66 km (41 miles) of the Danube course (1366 – 1433 km).It connects with Kopacki Rit (Croatia) and the Mura Drava Biosphere reserve (Croatia and Hungary) and together these areas form the largest river wetland area in Europe.	Serbia
3	Build on Bilateral cooperation with Serbia, and Romania; Djerdap National Park The Djerdap NP stretches along the right bank of the Danube River from the Golubac fortress to the dam near Sip, Serbia. It spreads over 640 square kilometres and the park management office is in the town of Donji Milanovac on the Danube. The main feature and attraction of the Djerdap National Park's natural beauty is the Djerdap gorge - the famous Iron Gate - the grandiose gateway through the southern slopes of the Carpathian mountains where the longest and biggest river accumulation in former Yugoslavia is located. The area extends into Romania	Serbia

Nr	Proposed Cross Border initiatives where RENA activities can be implemented	Proposed by
4	Build on Bilateral cooperation with Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina: Tara National Park Tara NP is a mountain located in western Serbia. It is part of Dinaric Alps and stands at 1,000-1,500 meters above sea level. The mountain's slopes are clad in dense forests with numerous high-altitude clearings and meadows, steep cliffs, deep ravines carved by the nearby Drina River and many karst, or limestone caves. The mountain is a popular tourist center. The area stretches into Bosnia and Herzegovina	Serbia
5	Build on bilateral cooperation with Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina: Durmitor National Park Durmitor is a massif and the name of a national park in North Western Montenegro. It reaches a height of 2,522 m (Bobotov Kuk). It links to Sutjeska National Park is a national park located in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Republika Srpska entity. It is Bosnia and Herzegovina's oldest national park. This is home to one of the last two remaining primeval forests in Europe, called Perućica. Beech trees tower over 60 metres high and endemic black pines stem from the rocky faces that protect the ancient forest	Montenegro
6	Build on local bilateral cooperation with fYR of Macedonia and Greece: Dojran Lake is a lake with an area of 43.1 km ² shared between the fYR of Macedonia (27.3 km ²) and West Macedonia within Greece (15.8 km ²).	fYR of Macedonia

The proposed training programme will be held in the above proposed transboundary pilot sites. The training topics are based on a training topics assessment carried out in the inception phase.

The topics have been selected on the basis of complementarities to the other ongoing initiatives. On the basis of (1) interviews during the inception phase and (2) available project documentation of the past, ongoing and planned initiatives as outlined above, it can be concluded that the above topics, especially in the field of **management plan implementation, nature impact assessments, and integrating economic concerns into nature management planning**, are issues that are truly complementary to the other initiatives. In addition, the proposed sites all have links to the ongoing initiatives. Prior to developing the training agenda in detail, this will need to be coordinated with the donors active in that area (mostly IUCN that coordinate the Dinaric Arc Initiative).

Questionnaires, indicating the potential topics have been sent to the Focal Points and it was requested to indicate priorities for training topics. Table 2 summarises the results of this assessment:

Table 2: Feedback from the RENA countries on training topics

	Alb	BiH	Cro	Kos	Mac	MN	Ser	Tur	total
Introduction to Bird and Habitats Directive and EU Com on halting loss of biodiversity	1					1			25%
Nature Impact assessments		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	88%
Designation Natura 2000 sites	1	1		1					38%
Developing sound (IPA) Nature projects	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	88%
Management Plans Implementation		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	88%
Special Topics (hunting, agri-environment, communication)		1		1		1		1	50%
Nature Management and economics: creating business and revenues in cross border areas	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	88%

The results showed that training workshops would be especially welcomed on

- Implementation of Nature Sites Management Plans;
- Conducting Nature Impact Assessments;
- Nature Management and strengthening the local economy: creating business and revenues in cross border areas;
- Developing sound Nature project proposals for donor consideration.

The results also showed that limited work from RENA is required as regards a general introduction of the EU Nature Legislation and designation of Natura 2000 sites (SACs and SPAs). Most countries indicate that already quite some work has been done on this aspect through other (ongoing) initiatives.

Initially, a 4-module regional training round was proposed located on 4 sites in the region. However, during the 28 October 2010 Annual Meeting of the RENA Nature Working Groups it was proposed to expand this to a 6-module training proposals to all the six proposed sites (Table 1).

The following organisations in the region that are involved in cross border nature projects have been proposed, as they have a good reputation and a good track record with the Ministries:

- The Macedonian Ecological Society is considered to be a professional organisation with who RENA could establish contacts to bring nature protection objectives of RENA further;
- IUCN Belgrade initiative, because of the Regional Dinaric Arc project where several cross border initiatives exist, such as the Tara National Park).

Set-up of RENA training programme

Based on the results of the inception missions in June, July and August 2010 and the Annual Nature Work Group meeting on 28 October 2010 in Zagreb, a six module training workshop is proposed.

The target group for the training workshops will be split into two groups:

Group 1: High level nature experts from the relevant Ministries of all the RENA countries (**three nominated** experts per RENA country, who will attend **all modules**): In total 24 participants per module;

Group 2: Local site managers (eg park management) together with local stakeholders (maximum participants from the cross border region: 6 per country: From each RENA country 2 representatives from Municipalities; 2 representatives from local business community; and 2 representatives from the Nature Protection Areas (site managers). In case a selected pilot site concerns two countries, there will be in total 12 local representatives.

The training workshops are designed as follows: The six modules will be conducted in the above six sites and include the following six module training **one-day** workshops for **Group 1**:

1. Module 1: Development and Implementation of Nature Sites Management Plans
 - “Management planning for protected areas” (Follow-up of the Eurosite toolkit);
 - Objectives setting;
 - Opportunities/threats/issues/problems and how do we agree what they are?;
 - What are the solutions to the opportunities/threats/issues/problems identified?;
 - Involving people/stakeholders.
2. Module 2: Nature Management and strengthening the local economy: creating business and revenues in cross border areas
 - Use Protected Areas to support Marketing & Employment;
 - Sustainable use of resources e.g. Green Tourism for landscape;
 - Case studies.
3. Module 3: Communication strategies with Stakeholders
 - Aarhus and public participation; objectives of Communication;
 - Work with Stakeholders: identifying; involving; informing;
 - Dos and Don'ts in involving the public; use of Communication media e.g. press; radio; publications; meetings etc.
 - Good practice case studies.
4. Module 4: Conducting Nature Impact Assessments
 - Required data for conducting impact analysis (acid deposition impact, air pollution impacts, fragmentation impacts; noise impacts);
 - Steps for a Full Nature Impact Assessment;
 - How to deal with gaps in knowledge and data;
 - Case studies.

5. Module 5: Developing sound Nature project proposals for donor consideration (Nature project development)
 - Translate Problem and Threats Analysis into a positive vertical intervention logic, including logframe;
 - Sound project fiches.
6. Module 6: Monitoring Nature Protection Areas
 - Objectives of monitoring and reporting;
 - How to set up and implement a monitoring and reporting programme / system for Nature Protection Areas;
 - Work with volunteers.

On the second and third day the target group for the training will be **Group 2**. Also representatives of Group 1 will be invited on a **rotating basis**, so that all participants of Group 1 have the opportunity to not only work on theory (Day 1 of the workshops), but also work on practical cases (the 2nd and 3rd day for Group 2). The topic of the training for the local community on day 2 and day 3 will be the same in all modules and include a 2 days workshop on Practical Development and Implementation of Nature Site Management Plans:

- Nature Sites Management Plan Development and Implementation; work programmes and finance
- Nature Sites Management Plans: Creating Business and Revenues in Cross Border Areas

This Group 2-training will be repeated on the six different sites and will be an interactive workshop actual implementation of Nature management plans and creating business and revenues in cross border areas. The participation of Group 1 representatives in day 1 and day 2 is balanced in such a way that all Group 1 representatives will participate two times in all modules for day 2 and 3. As this is the same training, this means that we will ask group 1 representative who participate the second time to make a presentation in the training for day 2 and 3.

Table 3: Summary RENA Nature training package

Day 1		Day 2 and 3	
Topic	Target Group	Topic	Target Group
Module 1: Development and Implementation of Nature Sites Management Plans Location: Gornje podunavlje or Kopacki Rit, Serbia or Croatia Tentative date in May 2011	Group 1: 3 Ministry National Experts per RENA country Total 24 participants	Practical Development and Implementation of Nature Site Management Plans Creating Business and Revenues in Cross Border Areas	Group 2: maximum 18 local participants: 6 local representatives + site managers per involved country: Croatia; Serbia; Hungary Group 1: maximum 7 RENA representatives (2 from Serbia, 3 from Croatia, 2 from Turkey) Trilateral cooperation site: 25 participants
Module 2: Nature Management and strengthening the local economy: creating business and revenues in cross border areas Location: Dojran Lake, FYR of Macedonia Tentative date in June 2011	Group 1: 3 Ministry National Experts per RENA country Total 24 participants	Practical Development and Implementation of Nature Site Management Plans Creating Business and Revenues in Cross Border Areas	Group 2: maximum 12 local participants: 6 local representatives + site managers per involved country: FYROM, Greece Group 1: maximum 11 RENA representatives (3 from FYR of Macedonia, 3 from Kosovo, 3 from Albania, 2 from Turkey) Bilateral cooperation site: 23 participants
Module 3: Communication with Stakeholders	Group 1: 3 Ministry National Experts per RENA country Total 24 participants	Practical Development and Implementation of Nature Site Management Plans	Group 2: maximum 12 local participants: 6 local representatives + site managers per involved country: Serbia and

Day 1		Day 2 and 3	
Topic	Target Group	Topic	Target Group
<p>Location: Djerdap, Serbia</p> <p>Tentative date in September 2011</p>		<p>Creating Business and Revenues in Cross Border Areas</p>	<p>Montenegro</p> <p>Group 1: maximum 5 RENA representatives (2 from Serbia, 3 from Montenegro)</p> <p>Bilateral cooperation site: 17 participants</p>
<p>Module 4:</p> <p>Conducting Nature Impact Assessments</p> <p>Location: Shara NP, Kosovo</p> <p>Tentative date in April 2012</p>	<p>Group 1: 3 Ministry National Experts per RENA country</p> <p>Total 24 participants</p>	<p>Practical Development and Implementation of Nature Site Management Plans</p> <p>Creating Business and Revenues in Cross Border Areas</p>	<p>Group 2: maximum 18 local participants: 6 local representatives + site managers per involved country: FYR of Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania</p> <p>Group 1: maximum 11 RENA representatives (3 from Kosovo, 3 from Albania, 3 from FYR of Macedonia, 2 from Turkey)</p> <p>Trilateral cooperation site: 29 participants</p>
<p>Module 5:</p> <p>Developing sound Nature project proposals for donor consideration (Nature project development)</p> <p>Location: Tara NP, Serbia</p> <p>Tentative date in June 2012</p>	<p>Group 1: 3 Ministry National Experts per RENA country</p> <p>Total 24 participants</p>	<p>Practical Development and Implementation of Nature Site Management Plans</p> <p>Creating Business and Revenues in Cross Border Areas</p>	<p>Group 2: maximum 12 local participants: 6 local representatives + site managers per involved country: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>Group 1: maximum 8 RENA representatives (3 from Croatia, 2 from Serbia, 3 from Bosnia and Herzegovina)</p> <p>Bilateral cooperation site: 20 participants</p>
<p>Module 6:</p> <p>Monitoring Nature Protection Areas</p> <p>Location: Durmitor, Montenegro</p> <p>Tentative date in September 2012</p>	<p>Group 1: 3 Ministry National Experts per RENA country</p> <p>Total 24 participants</p>	<p>Practical Development and Implementation of Nature Site Management Plans</p> <p>Creating Business and Revenues in Cross Border Areas</p>	<p>Group 2: maximum 12 local participants: 6 local representatives + site managers per involved country: Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro</p> <p>Group 1: maximum 6 RENA representatives (3 from Montenegro, 3 from Bosnia and Herzegovina)</p> <p>Bilateral cooperation site: 18 participants</p>

Follow-up on the RENA training programme

Towards the end of this specific RENA initiative, it is necessary to focus on the sustainability of the results once the RENA initiative under this contract is phased out. RENA experts will identify:

- Potential follow-up topics in the selected pilot areas: identification, presentation and discussion of potential follow-up projects/programmes with the Group 1 representatives;
- Preparation of draft project documents (fiches, project identification sheets, etc. format depending on donor).

It will be ensured that the projects are demand driven, so that there is a clear ownership to these project ideas.

2. Objectives

The objective of this RENA nature activity is to strengthen cooperation on issues of transboundary importance through the demonstration of best practices aligning nature management and local socio-economic development, while building capacity for nature protection in cross border areas.

3. Target group

Group 1: Ministries responsible for legislation in the environmental *acquis* with a special focus on the nature protection (e.g., Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) directives and the Commission Communication on biodiversity (Com (2006) 216)) in Albania, BiH, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244), Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. High level nature experts from the relevant Ministries of all the RENA countries (**three nominated** experts per RENA country, who will attend **all modules**): In total 24 participants per module.

Group 2: Local site managers (eg park management) together with local stakeholders (maximum participants from the cross border region: 6 per country: From each RENA country 2 representatives from Municipalities; 2 representatives from local business community; and 2 representatives from the Nature Protection Areas (site managers). In case a selected pilot site concerns two countries, there will be in total 12 local representatives.

4. Expected results

The following results are expected

- Improved capacity on developing and implementing nature management plans, while ensuring sustainability of defined actions in those plans;
- To stimulate and foster regional transboundary co-operation in the field of nature management;
- To acquire practical skills on the ground on the nature management plan drafting process.

5. Tasks

Task 1. Establishment of Nature Protection Working Group and organization of annual meetings

Working group on Nature Protection issues will meet three times per project duration. Decisions on selection of 1) pilot projects and/or case studies, covering SEE, Turkey, as well as EU member states; 2) training materials and 3) results of training will be made by the WG members.

Output: Three annual meetings of the Nature Protection Working Group.

Task 2. Elaboration of training programme: preparation of materials for pilot projects and/or case studies

Based on the training needs the training programme(s) will be developed. Logistics, training methodologies and training materials will further be elaborated. Six pilot sites have been selected on the basis of proposals from the RENA countries. The sites are mentioned in table 1 of section 1.3:

- (1) **Shara** National Park with Albania, FYR of Macedonia and Kosovo (Connecting Korabi, Mavrovo, Shara);
- (2) **Gornje podunavlje / Kopacki Rit / Danube Drava** National Park Hungary, Croatia, Serbia);
- (3) **Djerdap** National Park (Romania, Serbia);
- (4) **Tara** National Park (related to Dinaric arc initiative) (Serbia, BiH);
- (5) Transboundary corridor areas between National Park **Durmitor** (Montenegro) and National Park **Sutjeska** (BiH);
- (6) **Dojran** Lake (FYROM and Greece).

The preparation of the detailed training programme will include:

- Identify target groups for the trainings through the relevant Ministries (Group 1 & Group 2);
- Initial threats and opportunities assessment;
- Identify relevant information on past initiatives and ongoing initiatives to avoid duplication and create synergy;
- Develop training packages;
- Prepare detailed agenda in collaboration with the Nature WG coordinators;
- Agree on logistical arrangements.

The multi-module training programme has to be designed in such a way that they will support ongoing or support the development of new cross border nature protection initiatives. Elements of the Multi-module training programme will focus on the key elements of the EU nature protection *acquis*:

- Module 1: Development and Implementation of Nature Sites Management Plans;
- Module 2: Nature Management and strengthening the local economy: creating business and revenues in cross border areas;
- Module 3: Communication with Stakeholders;
- Module 4: Conducting Nature Impact Assessments;
- Module 5: Developing sound Nature project proposals for donor consideration (Nature project development);
- Module 6: Monitoring Nature Protection Areas.

The design and set up of the training programme, including the way target groups will be involved and the training topics is explained in section 1.3 and 1.4 above.

Outputs:

- Detailed two year Regional training programme defined at Pilot Projects for the period 2011 and 2012.

Task 3. Implementation of training programme

The training will be implemented in such a way that they will build on existing cross border nature protection projects and support the development of planned initiatives. The training will be linked to these identified pilot projects. Experts that are involved in the existing initiatives under the other donor parallel programmes will be closely involved in the training programme, either as trainers or as observers, depending on the subject of the training.

During the implementation of the training programme we will continuously investigate how possible gaps that remain in the delivery of the training programme (due to financial limitations), can be supported and filled in by other donors.

At this stage it is foreseen that during the period 2011 and 2012 the training will include 6 three-days training events for a target audience of maximum 30 participants. As stated in section 1.3 of this activity sheet, the participants of Group 1 (experts from the relevant Ministries) should be continuous so that not only a strong regional network can be built of specialists in the field of nature protection, but that also a core team of regional experts can be developed that could provide further training once the RENA initiative is over.

Output:

- Implementation of a multi-module regional training programme (6 regional events are foreseen on 6 pilot sites);
- Each training event will have a detailed training report, including an evaluation.

Task 4. Assessment of further capacity building needs, alignment of initiatives with donors

The specific tasks will include:

- The identification, presentation and discussion of potential follow-up projects/programmes to donors;
- Prepare the project documents together with and in close collaboration with the beneficiaries and project for donor financing (format according to donor);
- Prepare a guideline for practitioners and managers for protected areas management plans incorporating the results of the training of Task 3. The Guidelines target the development, implementation and monitoring of nature management plans;
- Preparation of database of potential donors (IFIs, bilateral donors) that are able to finance nature protection projects.

Output:

- At least 2 project fiches or project identification sheets etc. according to the required formats for a follow-up project at the selected pilot sites;
- Guideline for practitioners and site managers for protected areas management plans incorporating the results of the training of Task 3;
- Database of donors prepared and published on RENA website.

6. Outputs

The following deliverables will be produced:

- Three annual meetings of the Nature Protection Working Group and minutes of these meetings;
- Detailed two year Regional training programme defined at Pilot Projects for the period 2011 and 2012;
- Implementation of a multi-module regional training programme (6 regional events are foreseen);
- 6 training reports: Each training event will have a detailed training report, including an evaluation;
- At least 2 project fiches or project identification sheets etc. according to the required formats for a follow-up project at the selected pilot sites;
- Guideline for practitioners and site managers for protected areas management plans incorporating the results of the training of Task 3.

7. Submission of Reports

All reports shall be as concise as possible and written in the English language. All technical reports will be discussed in the RENA Working Group 3.

8. Inputs

The following experts are required which have the following specific experience

Qualifications and skills:

- University degree;
- Fluency in written and spoken English;
- High-quality analytical and document drafting skills.

Professional experience:

- At least 5 years experience in European Community law in the field of nature protection and implementation to serve as the local liaison and support to the Ministries;
- knowledgeable in the implementation of EC legislation on nature protection about which a country has substantial questions;
- knowledgeable in implementing management plans for Natura 2000 sites;
- more than 5 years experience in training in the field of the nature protection *acquis*.

The envisaged input of experts in working days is as follows:

Tasks	Category					
	KE1	KE2	KE3	KE4	SSTE	JSTE
Total	5	0	12	55	38	tbd

Incidental Expenditure Budget – approximately 177.700 euro

Generic agenda for Nature protection regional workshops (6 regional workshops/May 2011-September 2012)

Objective	Strengthen cooperation on issues of transboundary importance through the demonstration of best practices aligning nature management and local socio-economic development, while building capacity for nature protection in cross border areas.
Agenda items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical Development and Implementation of Nature Site Management Plans • Creating Business and Revenues in Cross Border Areas • Conducting Nature Impact Assessments • Developing sound Nature project proposals for donor consideration • Nature protection areas
Results/Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved capacity on developing and implementing nature management plans, while ensuring sustainability of defined actions in those plans • Improvement of regional transboundary co-operation in the field of nature management • Acquiring practical skills on the ground on the nature management plan drafting process • Training reports, project fiches, guidelines.
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives of Ministry of Environment and other relevant Ministries (depending on the training topic) as well as representatives of NGOs.
Time required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop duration: 3 days each

ANNEX 2:

DRAFT AGENDA

**Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA) project
Kopački rit and Gornje Podunavlje Training
May 10-12, 2011**

Place: Kopački rit Nature Park, Titov dvorac, Lug (near Osijek)

Date/Time: 9.00 – 17.30, Tuesday 10 May, 9.00 – 17.00, Wednesday 11 May, Thursday 12 May, 9.00 – 17.00,

Table : Summary RENA Nature training package

Day 1		Day 2 and 3	
Topic	Target Group	Topic	Target Group
Module 1: Development and Implementation of Nature Sites Management Plans Location: Kopački Rit, Croatia 10 – 12 May, 2011	Group 1: 3 Ministry National Experts per RENA country Total 24 participants	Practical Development and Implementation of Nature Site Management Plans Creating Business and Revenues in Cross Border Areas	Group 2: maximum 18 local participants: 6 local representatives + site managers per involved country: Croatia; Serbia; Hungary Group 1: maximum 7 RENA representatives (2 from Serbia, 3 from Croatia, 2 from Turkey) Trilateral cooperation site: 25 participants

DAY 1, 10 May: Development and Implementation of Natura Site Management Plans

9:00

Welcome coffee

9:15 – 9:45

Welcome and introduction

Mr. Imre Csikós, RENA Climate Working Group Leader

Ms Biserka Vištica, Director of Kopački rit Nature Park

Introduction of participants (3 Ministry National Experts per RENA country, total of 24 participants)

Objectives of the meeting

	Outline of the agenda
9:45 – 10.00 implementation	General description of RENA Network and status of project <i>Introduction by Mrs. Ivana Mijatovic</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Overall introduction to RENA- RENA Nature Working Group: Workplan for 2011 and 2012 and where participants fit in
10.00 – 10.45	The Habitats Directive and Managing Natura 2000 sites <i>Introduction by Mr. Imre Csikós with Tim Bines and Eddie Idle</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- EU Nature legislation and policy- Short Introduction to the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC- Management Plans and the provisions of Article 6 of the ‘Habitats’ Directive’
10.45 – 11.30	Workshop 1 : Nature Site Management Planning in the Region <i>Facilitated by Eddie Idle and Tim Bines</i> <p>National participants to bring an example of their own Management Plans. Countries to fill in tabular format the following questions (tabular format will be provided to participants before the workshop for them to complete/think about). Is there an existing Management Plan for Kopački Rit or Gornje Podunavlje?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What are the minimum requirements for a Natura 2000 Management Plan in each country?- What status do they have? e.g. legal, national, Europe.- Who is responsible for them – preparing, approving, implementing?- What guidance is there on format/length/terminology?- How are they used? For what purposes?- How do they affect local people, and what do local people think about Natura 2000?- What part do locals play in preparation and implementation?- How much information about each Natura 2000 sites do we have? <p>(The format for this questionnaire, based on questions above, will be distributed to participants before the workshop.)</p>
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee
11.45 – 12.30 Region	Workshop 1 : (Continued): Nature Site Management Planning in the Plenary session <i>Facilitated by Eddie Idle and Tim Bines</i> <p>The questionnaire in plenary.</p>
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Management Plans from other countries <i>Eddie Idle, Tim Bines and Imre Csikós</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Examples of Management plans and processes from other countries<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Scotland,o England,o Netherlands

- Croatia???
- Use of tabular work programmes (what is meant with this???)

15:00 – 15:15

Tea

15:15 – 16:30

Interactive Workshop 2: Management plan development – Considerations for decision makers

Facilitated by Eddie Idle, Tim Bines

The objective of this section of the programme is to help Country representatives to identify the crucial local stakeholders, .e. those who are necessary to achieve success.

Issues to be addressed

- What do local people think about the Protected Area?
- How does the protected area affect their lives?
- What information do they know about the protected area ?
- How can they be involved in the preparation of the management plan ?
- Which locals should be involved in preparing management plans?
- Cross border cooperation in management plan development

16:30 – 17:00

Wrap – up Day 1

Eddie Idle, Tim Bines

- Results and Conclusions of Day 1
- Short Introduction to Day 2 and 3: How the results of Day 1 will be used for the next two days

17:00

Travel back to Hotel

19.00 – 20.30

Dinner

DAY 2, 11 May: Practical Development of Natura Site Management Plans

9:00

Welcome coffee

9:15 – 9:45

Welcome and introduction

Mr. Imre Csikós, RENA Climate Working Group Leader

Ms Biserka Vištica, Director of Kopački rit Nature Park

Introduction of participants

- Group 1: 7 RENA representatives (2 from Serbia, 3 from Croatia, 2 from Turkey)
- Group 2: maximum 18 local participants: 6 local representatives + site managers per involved country: Croatia; Serbia; Hungary

Objectives of the meeting

Approval of the agenda

9:45 – 12:00

Short introduction to the Kopački rit Nature Park

- Presentation by the Kopački rit Nature Park Management
- Kopački rit site visit

12.00 – 12.15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
12:15 – 13:00	Workshop: Preparation of Management Plans for Kopacki Rit and Podunavlje Gore <i>Plenary session. Facilitated by Eddie Idle, Tim Bines</i> This section of the programme will be a discussion structured in line with any guidelines for Management Plan content and format. It will also address the question/problem of continuing survey/inventory <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What do we know about the two sites and from what sources?
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Plenary: What do we need to prepare a good Management Plan <i>Plenary session. Facilitated by Eddie Idle, Tim Bines</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Summary of the previous days conclusions- How the management plan will be used?, Who will be involved in the preparation, who will write the plan, who will carry out the work on the plan- How do we decide on objectives and aims for the protected areas?- Outline of format and length with chapter headings
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Tea</i>
15:15 – 17:00	Workshop: Drafting of a Management Plan <i>Plenary session. Facilitated by Eddie Idle, Tim Bines</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reviewing/assembling/preparing sections of the Plan- Review progress and next steps- Identify how to continue process and responsibilities
17:30 – 18:00	Discussion, comments and feed-back
18:00	Travel back to Hotel
20.00 – 21.30	<i>Dinner</i>

Day 3: Creating Business Opportunities and Revenues in Cross Border Areas

9:00	<i>Welcome coffee</i>
9:15 – 9:45	Review results from the previous day: <i>By Mr Imre Csikos/Edward Idle/Tim Bines</i>
9:45 – 10.45	Identify activities taking place on or around each Protected Area <i>By Mr Edward Idle/Tim Bines</i> This is an important discussion designed to find out what is going on and whether it is endangering the N2K features of interest. How can the activities be used to help maintain the N2K features i.e. this is not about prohibition, more about sustainable management.

- 10:45 – 11:00 *Coffee break*
- 10.45 - 12.30 **Discuss ideas how to develop the protected areas without endangering the Protected Area management**
- Work in small groups to stimulate a more detailed discussion of the pros and cons of each idea
 - Plenary discussion and wrap-up
- 12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch*
- 13:30 – 14:30 **Revenue promotion**
By Mr. Edward Idle and Mr. Time Bines
- Examples of branding as a way of promoting economic activity in or around Protected Areas in MS
 - What support is vital if revenue promotion is to be successful
 - How can local people be involved in the management of protected areas? What challenges will be there?
- 14.30 – 15:00 **Donor financing of nature**
By Imre Csikós
- Sources of financing
 - Applications for financing through IPA (project fiches)
- 15:00 – 15:15 *Tea Break*
- 15:15 – 16:15 **Drafting sound projects (IPA) (Interactive workshop)**
- 16:15 – 16:45 **Review results of the training and wrap-up**
- Identify how to continue process and responsibilities (if possible).
 - Comments and feed back (especially from the National Representatives)
 - Recommendations for the next training
- 16:45 **Closure and travel back**