



The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia



Excerpt from the Report on the celebration of the International Day for Biodiversity 22 May 2011

According to the recommendations of the International Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at UNEP, Secretariat of the National Committee for Biological Diversity (NCBD) and Nature Department under the Administration of Environment prepared Programme for the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity 22 May.

Invitations to take part in environmental manifestations associated with the celebration of the Biodiversity Day 22 May have been submitted to National Committee for Biological Diversity (NCBD), National Committee for Wild Migratory Species (NBC), National Committee for Wetlands (NRC), departments in state and municipal bodies, scientific institutions (MASA, Faculty of Natural Science and Mathematics, Forestry Faculty, Faculty of Science and Food, Natural Science Museum of Macedonia, Hydrobiological Institute-Ohrid) and non-governmental sector.

Programme activities were carried out on 22 and 23 May 2011. Departments of environment and nature in municipalities and the City of Skopje were proponents of the activities on Sunday. Activities on local level were organized in regional parks, pick-nick sites, by rivers, accumulations and lakes. Volunteers of non-governmental organizations distributed to visitors information materials (brochures, posters) with relevant information on animal and plant groups and species threatened at global, regional and local levels. Ecological activities were the most massive in Skopje region. Teams of ecologists-volunteers visited the pick-nick site REC Treska-Saraj and NM Canyon Matka and organized jointly education for young visitors and recreationalists. At 14:00 hours, all groups of ecologists-volunteers gathered together in the City Park in Skopje (plateau by the small lakes) and socialized with citizens and recreationalists. Outside points were erected at which materials of UNEP/CBD, CMS, RCWBC/CE and MEPP were distributed. Messages by young people to the competent authorities concerned strengthening of the capacity and allocation of more financial resources for the purposes of the implementation of programmes and projects for conservation of the key ecosystems and endangered wild species in the Republic of Macedonia, especially in Skopje region.

On Monday morning (23.05.2011), Nature Department held a meeting on which the final agenda for the working meeting in the MEPP and prepared materials for biodiversity and natural heritage conservation were adopted.

The working meeting took place between 13 and 15 hours. It was opened by Ms. Lidija Zafirovska, State Secretary in the MEPP. Aleksandar Nastov, MSci, Executive Secretary of the NCBD made brief introduction in the relevance of the Convention on Biodiversity and International Biodiversity Day. He reported that the International Biodiversity Day is celebrated every year in our country. In 2010, activities lasted throughout the year and International

Biodiversity Year was marked. Minister of Environment Dr. Nexhati Jakupi hosted the Regional Ministerial Conference on biodiversity conservation. Then, the Chairman Nastov presented the most important activities during the last decade (2001-2010), as well as future challenges of the Republic of Macedonia in biodiversity conservation by 2020.

Mr. Sasko Jordanov, Head of the Division for natural heritage protection, presented the results achieved under the UNEP/GEF and MEPP project aimed at strengthening of the MEPP capacity. In the frames of the project, studies have been prepared to valorize natural values of the SNR Tikves, NM Canyon Matka, Mountain Belasica, Koleshino and Smolare Waterfalls, Monospitovo Swamp and PA Jasen. Also, amendments of the Law on Nature Protection and set of bylaws were prepared, including Rulebook establishing the lists of strictly protected and protected wild species. Catalogue of wild species in the Republic of Macedonia, Biodiversity Analysis and Valorization, brochures and posters of endangered wild species of flora and fauna were published. The establishment of the National Biodiversity Information System of the Republic of Macedonia, to be located in the MEPP, is of particular importance. It will be used by all interested parties. The benefits of the project are for the MEPP and wider, for all citizens. Jordanov appealed that the initiated processes continue through implementation of projects supported by UNDP/GEF, EU (through IPA) and MEPP.

State Secretary Zafirovska and representatives of MEPP and MAFWE departments participated in the discussion. Questions were raised with regard to the level of threat of endemic, native and rare wild species, decline in the populations of the Macedonian stream trout, Brajcino trout and Ohrid lake trout; termination of the migratory route of the eel from Ohrid Lake through Crn Drim River basin, i.e. Drim to Adriatic Sea; decline in the populations of the white stork in Skopje valley and black stork in Skopje region, level of threat of the populations of bear, Balkan lynx and otter, incorporated in the future priorities of our country for biodiversity conservation and achievement of global BD targets by 2020. The discussion resulted in conclusions concerning future priorities in the achievement of the global biodiversity targets by 2020. One of those targets is updating of the database on Emerald areas and establishment of NATURA 2000. Priorities include preparation and adoption of Rulebook of the lists of strictly protected and protected wild species, development of National Strategy for Nature with Action Plan, development of the Fifth National Report of the Republic of Macedonia to CBD (2011-2014), upgrading of the existing Strategic Action Plan for BD (2010-2014) and preparation of new Strategy for Biodiversity with Action Plan (2015-2020); strengthening of the capacity on local and central levels, finalization of the process of re-valorization of natural values of protected areas and provision of financial resources for the implementation of priority targets by 2020. Participants supported the proposed conclusions. The Report on the implemented activities has been delivered to: competent state bodies, municipalities, scientific institutions, non-governmental sector and media. Excerpts of the report, set of photographs and materials of UNEP/CBD and Nature Department have been posted on the web portal of the MEPP.

Skopje: 24 May 2011

NCBD Secretariat
Executive Secretary: *A.Nastov*, MSci