

PROMOTING SYNERGIES
BETWEEN BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION
& REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Committee of the Regions

Conference

Pescara
Italy

20 September 2012



EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



Europe is host to unique natural diversity. Sadly, we are currently witnessing an increasing loss of biodiversity, threatening to undermine vital ecosystem services which underpin both quality of life and the economy. Ecosystems provide our societies with life-sustaining services: clean water, air and soils, climate regulation, recycling of nutrients and provision of food and raw materials.

Local and regional authorities are profoundly aware of this. As land planners and managers, they are in charge of national parks and nature reserves, including NATURA 2000 sites, a centrepiece of the recent EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. Moreover, local and regional authorities are instrumental in raising awareness on the crucial importance of biodiversity protection for regional development, particularly when conflicts arise, for instance due to the presence of large carnivores.

This conference will showcase best practices in ecosystem management and biodiversity protection, and will explore which strategies regions have adopted to manage their protected areas, via smart use of available funds and conflict-solving mechanisms.

9 a.m. – 12 a.m. | Study Visit to Penne Lake Protected Area and Gran Sasso/ Monti della Laga National Park (buses leave from hotels in Pescara)

12 a.m. | Lunch

1.30 p.m. | Bus transfer back to Pescara

Conference "Promoting synergies between biodiversity protection & regional development"

Moderator: Nino Germano, RAI – Radio Televisione Italiana

2 p.m. | Opening

Welcome

Gianni Chiodi (IT/EPP), President of the Abruzzo Region

Ilmar Reepalu (SE/PES), Chairman of the ENVE Commission of the Committee of the Regions, Mayor of the City of Malmö

Keynote speeches:

National support for local and regional biodiversity

Corrado Clini, Italian Minister for Environment, Territory and Sea (tbc)

Video message of **Janez Potočnik**, European Commissioner for the Environment

2.30 p.m. | SESSION 1: BIODIVERSITY ENABLING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This session will provide an insight into best practices in promoting synergies between ecosystems management, biodiversity protection and regional development, including the promotion of labels for sustainable local products, services and tourism in protected areas, of agri-environmental measures, and of evaluating ecosystem services.

Recognising the economic benefits of healthy ecosystems and their services in protected areas - local and regional approaches

Boris Erg, Director Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Belgrade

Lessons learnt from the French "Parcs naturels régionaux" in managing our natural heritage for a regional development

Jean-Louis Joseph (FR/PES), President of the "Fédération nationale des Parcs naturels régionaux de France", Member of the CoR, Mayor of Bastidonne, France



Promoting green infrastructure in regional development and land-use planning

Kadri Tillemann (ET/EPP), Member of the CoR, Mayor of Keila Rural Municipality Government, Estonia

Biodiversity protection and regional development in the Lubuskie Region, Poland

Elzbieta Polak, President of the Lubuskie Region, Poland

Local case studies:

Parks and protected areas in Abruzzo

Antonio Sorgi, Director General, Abruzzo Region

Sustainable tourism which respects the natural heritage

Daniele Kihlgren, "Albergo diffuso" of Santo Stefano di Sessanio, Province of Aquila

IKEA Abruzzo case-study

Riccardo Giordano, Environmental Manager Italy, IKEA Italia Retail Srl

Discussion

4 p.m. | **SESSION 2: SUCCESSFULLY MANAGING PROTECTED AREAS**

This session will look at strategies and the framework conditions that allow regions to successfully manage their protected areas and Natura 2000, including European and national funding and legislation, mechanisms to solve possible conflicts and means for awareness-raising and involvement of local stakeholder and municipalities.

Regions making Natura 2000 a success

Pia Bucella, Director Nature, Biodiversity & Land Use, European Commission

Successfully involving local stakeholder and municipalities in the setting up and management of National Parks

Giampiero Sammuri, Council member of EUROPARC Federation, President of Federparchi - EUROPARC Italia

Promoting successful management of protected areas in the pan-European context

Thierry Lucas, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Subsidiarity and the management of protected areas

Luciano Caveri (IT/ALDE), Head of the Italian delegation of the CoR, Member of the Regional Council of the Valle D'Aosta Region

Experiences from the Dubrovnik-Neretva Region in successfully managing the natural heritage

Nikola Dobroslavić, President of Dubrovnik-Neretva Region, Croatia

Local case study:

Coping with the management of large carnivores – the example of the Majella brown bear

Luigi Boitani, Professor of Biology, La Sapienza University, Rome (tbc)

Discussion

5.30 p.m. | **CONCLUSIONS**

Gianni Chiodi (IT/EPP), President of the Abruzzo Region

Ilmar Reepalu (SE/PES), Chairman of the ENVE Commission of the CoR, Mayor of the City of Malmö

5.45 p.m. | **End of the conference**

Venue: IPSIA Di Marzio-Michetti, Via Arapietra 112, Pescara

Interpreting arrangements:

Subject to confirmation, interpreting will be provided in the following languages:

8: FR/DE/EN/IT/ES/PL/CS/SK (participants may speak in) tbc

6: FR/EN/IT/ES/PL/CS (participants may listen in) tbc

For further information, please visit

<https://www.facebook.com/EnveArePescara2012>



Waterfront Bridge, Pescara

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