



UPDATE

2014

# Sustainable Hydropower in the Dinaric Arc

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Fresh water

This newsletter provides information on the latest developments of the Dinaric Arc Sustainable Hydropower Initiative (DASHI) as well as further news on freshwater and hydropower in the region. DASHI was launched by WWF in 2011. The Initiative aims to reduce the adverse impacts of hydropower development in the Western Balkans and to promote good practices in the region. The project focuses on the protection of the region's most precious freshwater ecosystems, in particular Ramsar wetlands such as Livanjsko Polje and Hutovo Blato in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lake Skadar shared by Albania and Montenegro.

## HYDROPOWER NEWS FROM THE REGION

### World Water Day



#### World Water Day `14: Water and Energy

On the occasion of World Water Day 2014 and in the light of the latest research by the Oxford University, WWF called upon investors to further screen key hydropower projects currently being developed in the Dinaric Arc region. There is strong pressure from national decision makers to develop new hydropower projects and there are more than 550 hydropower projects currently planned to be built in the region without a realistic estimate of their financial, social and ecological costs.

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## HYDROPOWER NEWS FROM THE FIELD

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### World Wetlands Day `14: Wetlands and Agriculture

WWF marked World Wetlands Day on 2 February with two events, one in Livanjsko polje and one in Hutovo Blato, wetlands of international importance protected by the Ramsar Convention. The events highlighted the important role wetlands play in people's lives and presented the threats wetlands are faced with. WWF used this opportunity to discuss these issues with national and local decision-makers.

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## Bosnia and Herzegovina (continued)



In Livanjsko polje WWF held a meeting with Josip Dolušić, advisor to the Federal Minister of the Environment, Livno mayor Luka Čelan, and Ilija Šljivić, Minister for Agriculture in the cantonal government. The meeting was held to promote the idea of sustainable value chains and promotion of non-wood forest products, which are a viable alternative to unsustainable development practices such as peat extraction.

In Hutovo Blato WWF organised a meeting with Mr Mladen Rudež, deputy Federal minister of the Environment and Tourism, representatives of Herzegovina-Neretva County, the mayors of Čapljina and Stolac, and public energy companies, to discuss WWF's initiative to solve the degradation of wetlands in Hutovo Blato through a new model of sustainable financing for the Nature Park.

**For more information: Mato Gotovac, [mgotovac@wwfmedpo.org](mailto:mgotovac@wwfmedpo.org);  
Zoran Mateljak, [zmateljak@wwfmedpo.org](mailto:zmateljak@wwfmedpo.org)**



### **Hutovo Blato Nature Park: Work on Upper Horizons continues**

Despite the lawsuit of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of BiH against the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of the Republika Srpska, the main project documentation for the 12 km-long tunnel for the HPP Dabar was completed in March 2014. Construction works on the tunnel (with a planned aperture of 4.6 meters and flow of 55 m<sup>3</sup>/s) are expected to begin by the end of the year and construction should take about four years. Although decision makers in Republika Srpska insist that the project will have no downstream effects, WWF studies have consistently proven otherwise unless specific mitigation measures are adopted. WWF urges the Government of the Republika Srpska and management of HPP Dabar to reassess all possible impacts of the Upper Horizons project and adopt mitigation measures together with independent experts and NGOs. Around 6 million euros has so far been invested in Dabar, the first of three hydropower plants planned in Upper Horizons project.

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## Croatia



### **Zagreb on Sava project: a world first for Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol (HSAP) application**

In February representatives of the International Hydropower Association (IHA) started an HSAP analysis for the project Zagreb on Sava, which foresees construction of 4 HPPs that would provide 25% of the capital's annual electricity consumption, provide flood defence, improve navigability on the river Sava, and protect underground freshwater sources. The project is being implemented by HEP-RVNP, a company owned by the Croatian national electric power company (HEP). An initial project workshop was attended by a wide range of stakeholders from the Zagreb region, and included a field visit to the construction sites and assessment planning and identification of next steps. HEP-RVNP officially announced their intention to apply the HSAP throughout all stages of the project, making it the first project in the world to use the protocol in such an early phase. The assessment should be finalized in August 2014.

**For more information: Irma Popović Dujmović, [ipopovic@wwfmedpo.org](mailto:ipopovic@wwfmedpo.org)**



### **Workshop on identification of most outstanding freshwater ecosystems in Croatia**

In April, experts on fish, birds, crayfish and hydromorphology met in Zagreb to identify Croatia's most outstanding freshwater ecosystems based on analyses carried out by WWF and partners at a regional level, to identify the most precious places to be saved from hydropower exploitation. The process will continue in the coming months and results will be published in June.

**For more information: Irma Popović Dujmović, [ipopovic@wwfmedpo.org](mailto:ipopovic@wwfmedpo.org)**

## Montenegro



### World Water Day

To mark World Water Day (22nd March) in Montenegro Green Home and WWF conducted a campaign to draw public attention to the 5th national report on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The report states that Montenegro has made poor progress primarily in the energy sector, especially in developing adequate assessment of significant biodiversity when planning hydropower development. The report's conclusions are a serious warning to decision makers that the use of water for energy production requires planning that will incorporate a wide range of impacts on the biodiversity of freshwater ecosystems as well as the social and economic aspects of these projects.

**For more information:** Nataša Kovačević, [natasa.kovacevic@greenhome.co.me](mailto:natasa.kovacevic@greenhome.co.me)



### EU: Montenegro must establish registry of freshwater protected areas

The European Commission published a report in March stating that there has been very little progress during the past year in terms of transposition of the Water Framework Directive and other water-related policies in Montenegro. The report said that Montenegro needs to establish a registry of freshwater protected areas, to complete and harmonize the requirements for monitoring, to work on defining the ecological and chemical status of surface water and groundwater, and to define the necessary measures and programmes for river basin management plans. Legislative compliance with the WFD in Montenegro has been postponed until the end of 2016, prolonging the complete establishment and implementation of the comprehensive freshwater policy framework until 2030.

**For more information:** Nataša Kovačević, [natasa.kovacevic@greenhome.co.me](mailto:natasa.kovacevic@greenhome.co.me)

## STAYING IN THE LOOP

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### The World Bank and EBRD support the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol (HSAP)

The World Bank, in its hydropower strategy, stated that it supports the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol while the EBRD stated in its recently released energy sector strategy that they ask for hydropower projects to comply with International Hydropower Association's Sustainability Guidelines and the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams. The Protocol is the fruit of several years of effort by representatives from social and environmental NGOs, governments, commercial and development banks and the hydropower sector, represented by the International Hydropower Association. WWF hopes for the commitment of other development banks in the coming years.

**More on:** <http://bit.ly/1kDhnkX> and <http://bit.ly/1bUahWw>

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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### Oxford University study: large dams are uneconomic

A new report prepared by researchers from Oxford University, based on the most comprehensive economic analysis of large dams ever undertaken, includes the analysis of 245 projects in 65 countries built between 1934 and 2007. The study finds that even before accounting for negative impacts on human society and environment, the actual construction costs of large dams are often too high to yield a positive return. The authors conclude that that in most countries large hydropower dams are too costly in absolute terms and take too long to build to deliver a positive risk-adjusted return, and advise policymakers to prefer agile energy alternatives that can be built more quickly.

**See:** <http://bit.ly/PtR5q4>. The study is available at: <http://bit.ly/1hY9dhm>

## DID YOU KNOW...?

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### Earth Hour 2014

Earth Hour was organized for the sixth time in all countries of the Dinaric Arc region, with events in all major cities, from Ljubljana, Zagreb, Sarajevo, Belgrade, Podgorica and Tirana on 29 March. With 162 countries participating globally in this year's Earth Hour, the WWF team put together a great campaign and raised the awareness of millions of people on the urgent need to lower our impact on the planet. The campaign has been growing each year, with more and more cities and local communities participating. The business sector has also become more involved each year, with major corporations participating in the action recognising there is more that they can do to lower the impacts of their value chains and educate consumers.

See: [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)

## THIS ISSUE'S PHOTO

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**Local fishermen using traditional methods, Hutovo Blato Nature Park, Bosnia and Herzegovina. © Andrija Vrdoljak / WWF-Cannon**

You can find more information on the Dinaric Arc Sustainable Hydropower Initiative at:

<http://bit.ly/KXr1fn>

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To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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