



#### IN THIS EDITION

- Let's do it Kosovo - a success story of an environmental action
- Kosovo's first Greenhouse Gas Inventory established
- Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency a member of an European Network
- Banana skins providing help against toxic waters
- Sharri Mountain's National Park part of regional Dinaric Arch Parks
- Rio+20: Time to act for a sustainable future
- Copenhagen the Green Capital of the year

Dear Reader,

We are happy to share with you the seventh edition of the Environmental Newsletter. Interesting topics, selected from the activities of different groups, focusing on environmental protection fill this newsletter. This time the focus is on voluntary action to protect the environment, and in particular, cleaning action and the work of local and international institutions to improve the environmental situation in Kosovo.

There is also information of student activities in environmental projects and participation of national institutions in regional and European projects and initiatives. In

this edition too you will find advice on actions that can be undertaken to help protect the environment, and a summary of information and most important events from the environmental calendar of this year. Hoping that our Newsletter is meeting the goal of increasing the level of quality information on environment, we would like to thank all those who contributed in making this edition more varied with interesting topics of interest for the public..

We still encourage everyone to send us information on their activities so that we continue with this cooperation to expand the content of the newsletter.

**Editorial Team**

## LET'S DO IT KOSOVO - A SUCCESS STORY OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



The nation-wide action day for cleaning the waste, was without doubt, one of the most successful actions for environmental cause organized in Kosovo. In addition to the hundreds of volunteers "Let's do it" with the employees from the

MESP, the initiative was joined by citizens from all over Kosovo. According to the organizers of the campaign, more than 50 thousand volunteers from 37 municipalities in Kosovo made their part for cleaner Kosovo. Volunteers participated

in cleaning actions in the cities, neighborhoods and villages, and as a result collected more than 10 thousand tons of waste by the end of the day.

All the cleaning equipments were provided from different donors for free for the campaign. Hopefully the action will continue to raise much needed awareness on the waste problem in Kosovo, not only among the citizens but also among the decision makers in the municipalities, and national level.

"Let's do it" is a world-wide campaign. It started in 2008 in Estonia, and it quickly spread to more than 90 countries in the world.

<http://letsdoitkosova.org>

**FAST FACTS**

\*There is no equal distribution of water resources in Kosovo. The Kosovo plane where around 60 % for Kosovo population lives has around 38.8% of the total amount of water reserves, whereas the plane of Dukagjini where around 40% of the population lives has around 61.2 % of water resources.

\*The central part of Kosovo lowlands has water in the amount of 2 l/s/km<sup>2</sup> while the upper flow of Lumëbardh river of Deçan (plane of Dukagjini) has water up to 53 l/s/km<sup>2</sup>

\*Industrial and urban pollution discharged directly into the rivers cause the largest pollution and threat for the Kosovo's rivers, water ecosystems and freshwaters.

## KOSOVO'S FIRST GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY ESTABLISHED

UNDP Human Development Report estimates that stabilizing the greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents serious climate change impacts will require a 50% reduction of the GHG emissions by 2050 from 1990 levels. This is especially relevant to the Balkan region, which has some of the most carbon intensive economies and climate change is already having a severe impact on development. A first Kosovo wide greenhouse gas inventory has been developed to calculate all greenhouse gases produced in Kosovo. The first inventory

was developed by the Czech Expert's team in corporation with the Kosovo experts; and supported by the United Nations Development Programme in Kosovo with a financial contribution from the Czech government. The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory is a mechanism to record and monitor greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gases are the main source of the global warming and climate change. In Kosovo the main source of the Greenhouse Gases comes from the Energy Sector, "Fuel combustion activities" which constitute about 80% of all anthro-

pogenic emissions in Kosovo. The inventory will be managed by Kosovo Environment Protection Agency (KEPA) and will be used for reporting to internal and external bodies, for policy development, policy debates and policy monitoring. In the context of increasingly challenging international agreements for emission reductions and green development measures, the introduction of the GHG inventory in Kosovo is very timely and it will support Kosovo's green development objectives and its contribution to the international climate change agenda."

## KOSOVO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY A MEMBER OF AN EUROPEAN NETWORK

### NETWORK OF THE HEADS OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCIES



Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency (KEPA) has been listed as a full rights member of the European Protection Agencies Network. The informal network brings together all heads of directors of National Agencies for the Protection of Environment or similar institutions from the European countries. The main

objective of this network is to exchange information and experiences of joint issues and interests of the participating organizations for the practical implementation of environmental policies. The Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency hopes to gain from membership in this important environmental network

experience from the European countries in implementing environmental legislation and increase the cooperation with other European environmental Agencies. The EPA website also contains information on all it's member agencies, their mandate and activities. <http://epanet.ew.eea.europa.eu/>

### YOUR ACTION COUNTS, JOIN IN!



♻️BYOB, Bring Your Own Bag and reduce the amount of plastic waste.



♻️ Driving or walking keeps you not only in shape but reduces the pollution.

## BANANA SKINS PROVIDING HELP AGAINST TOXIC WATERS



Two students from the Turkish college “Mehmet Akif” in Kosovo have won the copper medal in the Olympiad of the colleges with their environmental project. Kosovar students Jon Maxhuni and Diedon Xhiha, presented in the Olympiad held in Houston-Texas, USA, their project, which was one of 438 projects from three different subjects: energy, engineering and environment. The students who participated in the contest represented more than 100 countries from all over the world.

The Kosovo students managed to win the copper medal thus taking the third place and they also won a scholarship covering 50 % of university studies. Jon’s and Diedon’s project presented a possibility of cleaning the polluted water of Trepça mine using the banana skin as dried matter. Due to the presence of heavy metals such as: zinc, lead and cadmium, a potential source of pollution for surface water in the surrounding, and represents problems for the environment and people living nearby

the old or active mining areas. Based on the information above mentioned the students started their project. Further, after a lot of literature and internet research they learned that banana skin has the property of absorbing and cleaning the ions of these metals as the skin contains protein and starch.

Initially, they used dried banana and then chopped it into fine particles as dried banana contains no liquid and may absorb larger quantities. Afterwards, they mixed the particles with 100 milliliters of polluted water from Trepça, and thus acquired the filtrates that were subsequently sent to the lab. After the analysis, very good result was obtained regarding the ability of banana-made filters to absorb the heavy metal ions from Trepça water.

## SHARRI MOUNTAIN’S NATIONAL PARK PART OF REGIONAL DINARIC ARCH PARKS



The National Park “Sharri Mountains” has become part of a three-year program for the Dinaric Arch Mountains. The Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency is a partner in the implementation of this project that is managed by WWF Mediterranean (Wildlife World Fund for the Mediterranean) supported by the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs of Norway and MAVA Foundation. The goal of the project is to establish a network of National Parks and Nature Parks in the Dinaric Arch Mountains. The project includes 80 protected areas from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia and Albania.

In the framework of this project in 2012 several training sessions and study visits were organized in the regional countries, while the network plans to organize conferences, workshops, seminars and experience exchange in the topic of NATURA 2000, ecotourism and finding funds for nature protection. The Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency, through its units: Kosovo Institute for Protection of Nature and Directorate of National Park Mali Sharr expects from this project to gain experience in the sector of management of protected areas in general and national parks in particular. Also, this is a good opportunity for increasing regional cooperation to exchange good practices in protection of nature and to increase capacities to acquire funds for the environmental protection.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

16 September  
International Day for  
Protection of Ozone  
Layer

18 September  
Water Monitoring  
World Day

22 September  
Clean Cities World  
Day

4 October  
Animal Protection  
World Day

15 October  
International Nature  
Walking Day

16 October  
World Food Day

8 November  
International Urban  
Area Day

This newsletter is published with cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESp) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Kosovo.

Editorial team:  
Afrim Berisha (MMPH),  
Sami Behrami (MMPH),  
Inari Penttilä (UNDP) Burbuqe Dobranja (UNDP).

Subscribe at:  
[www.ks.undp.org](http://www.ks.undp.org)

Online version:  
<http://www.kosovo.undp.org/>  
and  
[www.ammk-rks.net](http://www.ammk-rks.net)

## RIO+20: TIME TO ACT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Rio+20 conference on sustainable development, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012 was the biggest UN conference ever and a major step forward in achieving a sustainable future.

Third of its kind, a high-level international gathering was organized to re-direct and renew global political commitment to the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social improvement and environmental protection; focusing on reducing poverty while promoting green jobs, clean energy and more fair, sustainable uses of resources.

The conference was a follow up on the 1992 Earth Summit,

which put in place landmark conventions on climate change and biodiversity, as well as commitments on poverty eradication and social justice. Since then, however, global emissions have risen by 48%, 300m hectares of forest have been cleared and the population has increased by 1.6bn people. Despite a reduction in poverty, one in six people are malnourished. Representatives of 192 UN member states — including 57 Heads of State and 31 Heads of Government, private sector companies, NGOs and other groups participated at the conference bringing the total to more than 45 thousand individual participants. Virtual par-

ticipation in the Conference was also significant, as social media played a major role in raising awareness and enabling greater participation worldwide.

At the end of the three day conference, world leaders approved the outcome document for Rio+20, entitled “The Future We Want” which calls for a wide range of actions and businesses and investors committed over \$50 billion to achieve the initiative’s three objectives. Tens of billions of dollars have been committed by other key stakeholders – governments, multilateral development banks, international and civil society organizations – to catalyze action in support of the initiative.

## COPENHAGEN THE GREEN CAPITAL OF THE YEAR

Copenhagen was the Green Capital of the year for its achievements in “eco innovation and sustainable mobility”; the city is building up on the basis of green economy and in engaging citizens to be part of the active solution makers for a sustainable city. European Union launched the award aiming to support European cities to become places that are pleasant to live in, work and visit now and for the future generations as well. Nowadays, three out of four Europeans live in cities. The award rewards good examples of handling environmental challenges in the urban modern life. The jury distinguished Copenhagen as a model in urban planning and projecting. Copenhagen has established public-private partnerships in the essence of its approach towards eco-innovation and sustainable



mobility. The city works with companies, universities and organizations to develop and implement green growth. It is also a pioneer in transport, with the goal of becoming the most bikers’ friendly city in the world. The goal is that

until 2015, more than 50 % of its resident use bikes to commute to work or school (35 % already do this since 2010), thus helping the city achieve its ambitious goal to be CO<sub>2</sub> neutral until 2025. [http://www.enn.com/green\\_building/article/44641](http://www.enn.com/green_building/article/44641)

### YOUR ACTION COUNTS, JOIN IN!

☺ Fix the dripping tap and save around 30 liters of water a day.



☺ If we close the tap while brushing our teeth we save up to 20 liters of water.



☺ Use energy efficiency light bulbs to save energy&money.