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Dear reader,

The new edition of the Environmental Bulletin is ready for the readers and environment lovers as a gift for the end of this year. Throughout 2012 we have tried to inform you via the Environmental Bulletin about the most important events, achievements and efforts that occurred during the year in the environmental protection sector.

We shall make efforts to continue with the same vigor next year too. This edition of the Environmental Bulletin remains truthful to the outline of the selected topics and offered

information that address events and activities of various groups and institutions. We use this opportunity to once again thank all those who contributed and helped in the publication of the Environmental Bulletin with their information and topics and we encourage the strengthening of this cooperation in the New Year.

We hope that 2013 will be a year of efforts, commitments and activities for environmental protection and improvement of its condition.

Editorial team

THE WASTE SECTOR IS ON THE FOCUS OF DONOR SUPPORT



Waste management continues to be one of the biggest environmental problems in Kosovo. Consequently, a large proportion of donor support is focused on the improvement of the situation in this sector. Thus, as part of the project implemented by the Japanese Agency for International Cooperation (JAIC) for capacity building of solid waste management, the Japanese Government has donated 43 trucks for the collection and transporta-

tion of urban waste, 33 of them being donated to the Regional Waste Company - Ecoregion in Prizren, and 10 for the Regional Waste Company - Cleaning, in Pristina. The Norwegian government has expressed its willingness, via the Norwegian Ambassador in Kosovo – Jan Braathu, to supply Kosovo municipalities with over 1000 waste containers. Containers will be donated to municipalities as part of the support for more efficient manage-

ment of urban waste. On the other hand, in the framework of the project funded by the World Bank for the soil rehabilitation around the KEK area, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning signed an agreement with Sweden and Belgium for transferring the hazardous materials to be treated in these countries. The entire project anticipates the transfer of about 600 tons of hazardous materials such as tar, from the gasification plant KEK. Hazardous wastes pose a risk to human health and the environment while Kosovo has no infrastructure for their disposal. The World Bank project has foreseen for the hazardous substances to be disposed of in accredited plants and according to the EU directives for management of this type of waste.

SUMMARY

The energy sector produces about 82% of the total national emissions of greenhouse gases in Kosovo.

One person generates on average 1.6 kg of waste per day, and the waste collection services cover about half of the population of Kosovo (47%).

As for the provision of waste collection services, Prishtina region has the best coverage with 57% of the population and Urosevac with 51%, while the regions of Mitrovica with 31% and Prizren with 40% of the population are illustrated as the regions with the lowest coverage of the aforementioned services.

As a result of its slope terrain, Kosovo loses about 1000 ha from erosion every year.

While only 15% of the soil is considered as good land and 29% with average quality, more than half of the soil (56%) is considered as poor quality land.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES DEPARTMENT

In an effort to strengthen the environmental management institutional capacity, an Environmental Crimes Department was established within the Kosovo Police. The foundation of this department was an initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, which was supported by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its objective is to implement environmental protection measures. This Department will exclusively handle criminal offenses related to the environment, in accordance with the applicable law. Efforts for the development of Kosovo's institutions in this regard are not only to merely prepare the country for the implementa-

tion of the European Convention on Environmental Crime, but rather to address the growing needs facing the environment and the institutions responsible for its protection. This involves the upgrading of environmental law implementation while providing support for the identification and prosecution of environmental crime. Environmental crime has lately become a global concern representing an increasing activity that is being distinguished by the diversity of offenses as well as their complexity. Since 1972, when the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was held in Stockholm, Sweden, within

the scope of undertaking national comprehensive policies, the governments of many countries of the world prepared a strategy and plans for the fight against environmental crime, aiming the approval and implementation of institutional and legislative measures within their national jurisdictions, without affecting or harming the environment of other states. Nowadays, there are many regional, international and global organizations in the world, such as INTERPOL, the Environmental Investigation Agency, etc., which actively operate and cooperate with the objective of the global environmental protection.

MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



The Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held from 8-19 October 2012, in Hyderabad, India.

The Conference of the Parties is the governing body of the Convention, and advances implementation of the Convention through the decisions it takes at its periodic meetings.

Approximately 14,000 delegates representing Parties and other governments, UN bodies, intergovernmental, non-governmental, indigenous and local community organizations, academia and the private sector participated in the meeting and official side events.

This meeting took place dur-

ing the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB) as declared by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 65/161. The United Nations Decade on Biodiversity serves to support and promote implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Addition information on CBD and outcomes of the meeting of the COP-11 can be found in the official website of the CBD: <http://www.cbd.int/convention/>

HOW CAN WE HELP IN PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT?



☺ Travel green. Use your bicycle, public transport or carpool.



☺ Voluntarily donate to environmental protection actions or be an active part of green initiatives.



KOSOVO INCLUDED IN THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY REPORT ON DATA-FLOW

Eionet priority data flows
May 2011–April 2012
EIONET



The European Environmental Agency published the report on priority data-flow in the European Network of Environmental Observation and Information for the period 2011- 2012. For the first time in the history of the European Environmental Agency, the report included the evaluation of priority data flow

for Kosovo. The data-flow evaluation was carried out including 13 topics, 5 of which were not relevant for Kosovo. The data reported from Kosovo through the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency were evaluated with the maximum points on the following topics: nature conservation areas and quality of river water, and good rating was received for the quality of groundwater, air pollution emissions and ozone. In the overall rankings of countries which includes all European Union Member States and Candidate or Potential Candidate Countries (Croatia, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, Bosnia Hercegovina and Macedonia), Kosovo ranks higher than Malta, Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina and Montenegro. This is the 15th report on this topic and its idea is to assess the progress achieved in the flow of

data, to identify the problems that countries are facing with regard to data-flow and encourage them for better performances. Ensuring high quality data to the European Network of Environmental Observation and Information - EIONET is one of the crucial objectives of the European Environmental Agency. In order to achieve this objective EIONET intends for the information to be relevant, reliable and be provided in time. Participation of the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency in the European Environmental Agency activities was enabled in the scope of IPA project "Participation of Western Balkan Countries in the work of the EEA". Kosovo was included in this project since 2010, and it now continues with the second phase which started at the beginning of this year and will carry on to the end of 2013.

PROGEO-KOSOVA E MEMBER OF PROGEO-EUROPE



ProGEO-Kosova became a member of the General Assembly Council of ProGEO-Europe, an association that deals with conservation of geological heritage in Europe. At the 7th Symposium of the Association held in Bari, Italy, in the period 24-28 September 2012, the representative of ProGEO Kosova was admitted to the ProGEO-Europe General Assembly Council with equal rights as all other

members of different European Union countries. ProGEO-Kosova was established in 2010 as a non-profitable association that deals with the protection and conservation of the geological heritage in Kosovo.

Since its establishment, ProGEO-Kosova in cooperation with ProGEO-Albania has organized several joint activities, such as the Geotrip

2010 at the Valbona Gorge, Geotrip 2011 to the Bjeshkët e Nemuna (the Cursed Mountains) and Geotrip 2012 to Kruja Mountain. ProGEO – Kosova has also published monograph on Kosovo Caves and it is preparing the geological information on the Kosovo geo-monuments and geo-parks.

In the scope of the ProGEO-Kosova activities, there are experts of different profiles: geographers, geologists, archeologists and biologists. The Association has a good cooperation with: The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals, Department of Geography and Geology at University of Prishtina, Slovenian Research Institute for Carstic waters, Albanian Geological Service, ProGEO-Albania and many other local and international environmental associations. www.progeo.se

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

2 FEBRUARY World Wetlands Day

22 MARCH World Water Day

23 MARCH World Meteorological Day

26 MARCH Earth Hour

7 APRIL World Health Day

22 PRILLI Earth Day

5 QERSHOR World Environment 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.

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WATER AS A SOURCE OF CONFLICT

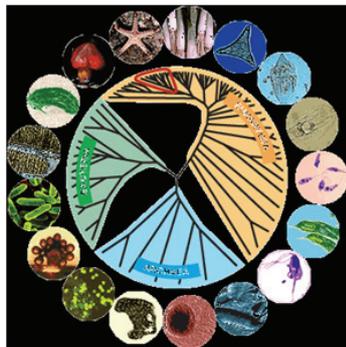
Although the water crisis has not reached a global level, the consumer trends, pollution and irrational use of water in many regions have not only caused crises but also generated conflicts over water use. A greater risk of conflict over water resources exists in areas where the same resources are shared by two or more countries, regardless of the fact that there are many acts and international policies regulating the use of water by all countries where rivers run. According to UNESCO data, 1831 water related incidents have occurred in the past 50 years and 1228 out of them have been resolved by agreement. The United Nations have identified 70 areas with high conflict potential throughout the world – with water being

the main reason for it. The majority of them are located in Africa, the continent where most countries share a river or a lake. During the twentieth century Water Conflict Chronology has identified 66 water related conflicts: 6 in North America, 14 in Europe, 23 in Asia, 18 in Africa, 4 in South America and 1 in Australia. In the period 1991-2000, 7 out of 31 water related conflicts were terrorist attacks, while in the period 2001-2002, 7 out of 11 were terrorist attacks. Water is the basis for the existence of humanity and other living creatures. To improve the current situation the sustainable use of water resources is needed. If the human society does not take concrete steps in a short period of time to protect and rationale use



water sources then water will become a societal, ecological, and safety problem and a source of crises, incidents and wars. In 1995, the World Bank Vice-President, Ismail Serageldin warned that "If the wars of the 20th century were fought over oil, the wars of the 21st century will be fought over water".

NEW DATA ON THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE GLOBE



The majority of the world species are still unknown to science even though many scientists are trying to establish the number of species

that existed on Earth the last several decades. Estimates of non-microbial diversity on Earth provided by researchers vary from 2 to 50 million species, with a large uncertainty in the numbers of insects, mushrooms, nematodes and deep-sea organisms.

Some groups of species, such as plants and birds, are known according to the findings of a few new species each year by scientists. For insects and mushrooms, however, it's almost impossible to assume the number of

the unknown species.

These results were published in a study – first of its kind – by researchers of the National University of Singapore (NUS), James Cook University in Australia, Microsoft Research UK and Duke University in the U.S. The researchers highlighted the importance of technology such is the DNA code, a database that massively accelerates the level of species detection. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/07/120717084802.htm>

HOW CAN WE HELP IN PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT?



⊞ Powering appliances left in standby mode spend a significant amount of energy. Unplug appliances that are not in use regularly.



⊞ Turn off all lights when leaving the house or when you don't need them.

TURN OFF LIGHT

