

The Albanian Government, guest of honor of the fifth edition of the Mediterranean Parks Fair 2008, Bari, Italy



May 2008



An important event took place from May 7 to 11, 2008 in Bari (Italy), in the framework of the Mediterranean Parks Fair organized by the council for Ecology of the Puglia Region and the Italian Federation of Parks and Natural Reserves. Set up under the patronage of the President of the Republic and supported by the EU Commissioner for Environment, Mediterre "is dedicated to national and local authorities, management bodies, scientific and research institutions, companies and associations which operate in the protection of nature in the Mediterranean basin."

"The Mediterranean Park Fair" was the place where parks and natural attraction of the Mediterranean area were shown off. MEDITERRE aimed to be a unique international opportunity, a time to compare points of view, an arena for meetings and debates, with the participation of a range of institutions, agencies and professionals in the nature conservation sector.

The official invitation for Albania as the guest of honor of the fifth edition of "Mediterre 2008" was forwarded to the Albanian Minister of the Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports Mr. Ylli Pango, and to the, Minister of Environment, Forest and Water Administration, Mr. Lufter Xhuveli on November 2007, by the President of Puglia Region On. Nichi Vendola, the President of Federparchi (Italian Federation of Parks and Natural Reserves), Dott. Matteo Fusilli and the Minister of Ecology of Puglia Region Dott. Michele Losappio.

Albania, as the guest of honor of the fifth edition of 'Mediterre', had at *Fiera del Levante* in Bari, Italy a special session in order to get to know the policies for management and promotion of the environment and cultural heritage. A stand of about 50 square meters was dedicated to Albanian protected areas. Particularly relevance had the area of the Albanian Alps, territory of suggestive beauty, solemn splendid places. Here, intrinsically bound up with the ancestral traditions of the inhabitants, nature is bitter-sweet, combining traditional flavors with a thirst for modernity.



Foreword

In the framework of the UNDP ART GOLD/IDEASS activities for the promotion of “*Compagnia dei Parchi*” Innovation in Albania, had been held on December, 11 to 14, 2006, a mission of the President of “*La Compagnia dei Parchi*” Mr. Roberto Di Vincenzo and the President of *Federparchi* Mr. Matteo Fusilli to Albania. The mission was organized, following the interest of the Albanian Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, and Albanian Ministry of the Environment Forest and Water Administration to implement a successful strategy for Albanian Park management and development and for sustainable tourism initiatives

The Albanian Authorities expressed the interest to support a cooperation project for sustainable tourism based on the experience of “*La Compagnia dei Parchi*” and proposed the realization of a common working table in order to explore the way to activate in Albania an innovative tourism product fostering economic local development.

On May 24, 2007, was organized the first meeting of the Working Table for the promotion of Sustainable Tourism Initiatives in Albania. The objective was to define, the modalities for the activation of a new Albanian tourist product, aimed at the promotion of sustainable economic growth in the Albanian Natural Protected Areas, and at the development of sustainable tourism initiatives. At the meeting participated Mrs. Suzana Turku, Deputy Minister, Albanian Ministry of Culture, Tourism, Youth and Sports and Mr. Taulant Bino, Deputy Minister, Albanian Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, UNDP ART GOLD/IDEASS Albania, GEF/UNDP (Global Environmental Fond) project, GTZ, UNDP Albania-UN Echo and Cultural Tourism Programme, World Bank etc. The participants agreed in given priority to the Northern area, in the Region of Shkoder, and proposed to realize a collective study field trip to Thethi and to Kelmend area.



In this context was organized a second mission to Albania of the President of “*La Compagnia dei Parchi*” Mr. Roberto Di Vincenzo and his staff and the Representative of *Federparchi*, main Italian Association of Natural Parks, Mrs. Stefania Petrosillo from 24th to 28th September 2007. The main objective of the mission was to realized a study field trip in the Northern area of the Country, in the Region of Shkodra in order to conduct a feasibility survey, to receive further information about tourism in Thethi and Kelmendi area, and to identify the possibility to implement a project for developing and managing the natural protected areas with the CdP’s methodologies.

A document for the promotion of Sustainable Tourism Initiatives in Albania was elaborated by the Compagnia dei Parchi and Federparchi experts and was recently forwarded to the Albanian Government by UNDP ART GOLD IDEASS.

Puglia Region and Albania “Waiting for Mediterre” on April 18, 2008 in Tirana



The initiatives of the Albanian Government in the field of environmental policy and preservation in protected areas were presented in advance during “Aspettando Mediterre”, organized in Tirana by Puglia Region on April 18, 2008. The meeting was attended by the president of Puglia Region On. Nichi Vendola, the Italian Ambassador in Tirana, Saba D'Elia, the UN Res. Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative in Albania, Mrs. Glden Trkz Cosslet, the Albanian Minister of Environment Lufter Xhuveli, the Albanian Minister of European Integration, Mrs. Majlinda Bregu, the Albanian Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism, Eqrem Spahia, the Albanian Deputy Minister

of Culture, Tourism, Youth and Sports Mrs. Suzana Turku, the Deputy Minister of Environment, Forests and Water Administration., Mr. Taulant Bino.

Mediterre 2008: Albania, guest of honor of the fifth edition

A dense calendar of events and conferences on the themes of exploitation and environmental protection, water and energy, the regional department to the Mediterranean was a promoter of two major initiatives, in which attention to the resources of the territory is combined with the commitment in cooperating with the border/areas.

On May 9, 2008 a conference was organized with the title "The management and exploitation of natural areas common border". The event was attended by the Environment Ministers of Albania, Macedonia, and Montenegro, the President of Puglia Region, On. Nichi Vendola, the Head of the Mediterranean Region of Puglia, Mrs. Silvia Godelli, and other international authorities. The session was opened by the representative's institutional foreign Mr. Lufter Xhuveli, Albanian Minister of Environment, Forests and Water, Mr. Xhelil Bajrami, Macedonian Minister of Environment and Mr. Pedrag Nenezic, Montenegrin Minister of Environment. Mrs. Silvia Godelli concluded the work of the conference.



On May 10, 2008 a special session was organized – the presentation of Albania as guest of honor of the fifth edition of 'Mediterre'. The session was attended by Mr. Michele Losappio, Minister of Ecology of Puglia Region, Mr. Antonio Ciuffreda, Ente Fiera del Levante, Mr. Matteo Fusilli, President of Federparchi, (Italian Federation of Parks and Natural Reserves), Mr. Taulant Bino, Albanian Deputy Minister of Environment, Deputy Mayor of Shkodra Municipality, Mr. Ridvan Troshani, Mrs. Renata Uruci, National Coordinator UNDP ART GOLD IDEASS and Gildo Baraldi, Director General

OICS Observatory Interregional Development Cooperation. The session was moderated by Mr. Bernardo Notarangelo, Assessorato al Mediterraneo, Puglia Region.

IDEASS is one of the international programs implemented as part of the ART Initiative - said Mrs. Uruci, Albania National Coordinator UNDP ART GOLD IDEASS. ART Initiative – Articulating territorial and thematic networks for human development cooperation - is an international



cooperation initiative that brings together programs and activities of several United Nations Agencies: UNDP, UNESCO, UNIFEM, UNHCR, UNITAR, WHO, ILO, UNOPS among others- she added. Mrs. Uruci made a brief presentation on the ongoing projects in Albania in the framework of IDEASS activities and informed the participants about the CdP project for the development of ecotourism in the Albanian Alps.

Compagnia dei Parchi is one of ongoing IDEASS project in Albania. CdP is an innovative, non-profit, limited liability consortium that generates income by using suitable exiting properties as tourist accommodation. In this way, it promotes fresh economic development based on local resources. Through a bottom-up approach, CdP makes full use of the distinguishing qualities of the protected areas, not only their natural heritage, but also their history, culture, folklore and architecture. UNDP ART GOLD IDEASS is working with Federparchi, Compagnia dei Parchi and the

Albanian Government, and local administration and communities to define an ecotourism development strategy for the area of the Albanian Alps, in Shkodra Region- added Mrs. Uruci.

The Deputy Minister of Environment, Taulant Bino, was a representative of the country of eagles. "Regional integration was the subject which struck me most from the prologue in Tirana in April, when on the occasion of 'Waiting for Mediterre' a meeting between authorities from Puglia Region and Albania was held", he said. "For the development of the whole our region we should think that nature is a common heritage. We share the same resources and we have the same relations because we live in an open and united continent.

The sustainable development of Albania is a sdeematter which regards all the participants of the European partnerships". According to Bino, "the Albanian government has already undertaken fundamental initiatives for environment protection and sustainable development, by doubling in the last three years the dimensions of the protected areas which already represent 10% of the territory". "With our projects we want to cover and exceed in 2014 the ceiling of protected areas to 50% of the territory of the country," he added. "We have already allotted funds for these projects while among



the future ones we also plan the creation of a cross-border park between Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro. Other projects, apart from the National Integrated Development Strategy, will concern infrastructure, environment management and formation of an environmental legislative package," the deputy minister said. Shkoder, the city which is the main town of the Northwest District of Albania situated within the coasts of the lake having the same name near the rivers Drin and Buna, will be interested in the cross-border park.

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