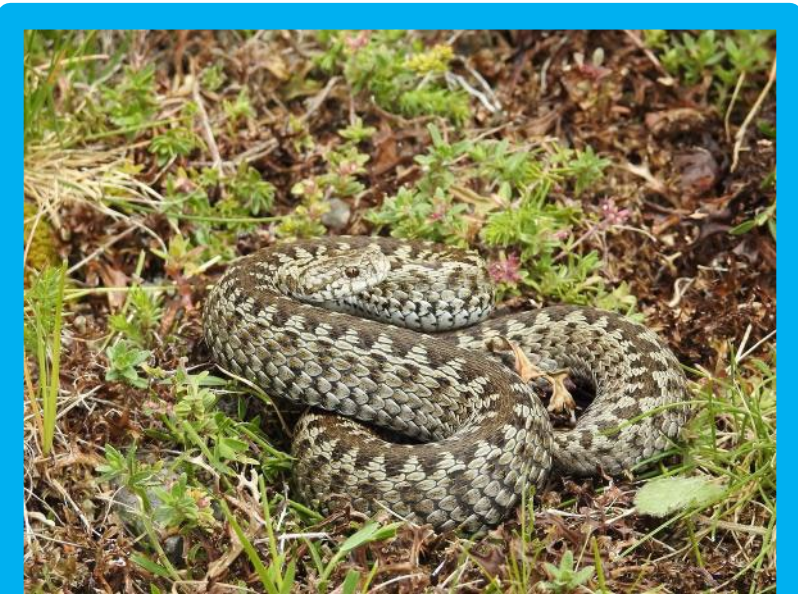


# Establishment of the ecological network Natura 2000 /Emerald in the frame of the EU Acquis process of Montenegro

Progress and challenges

Prizren 2023, [til.dieterich@web.de](mailto:til.dieterich@web.de)



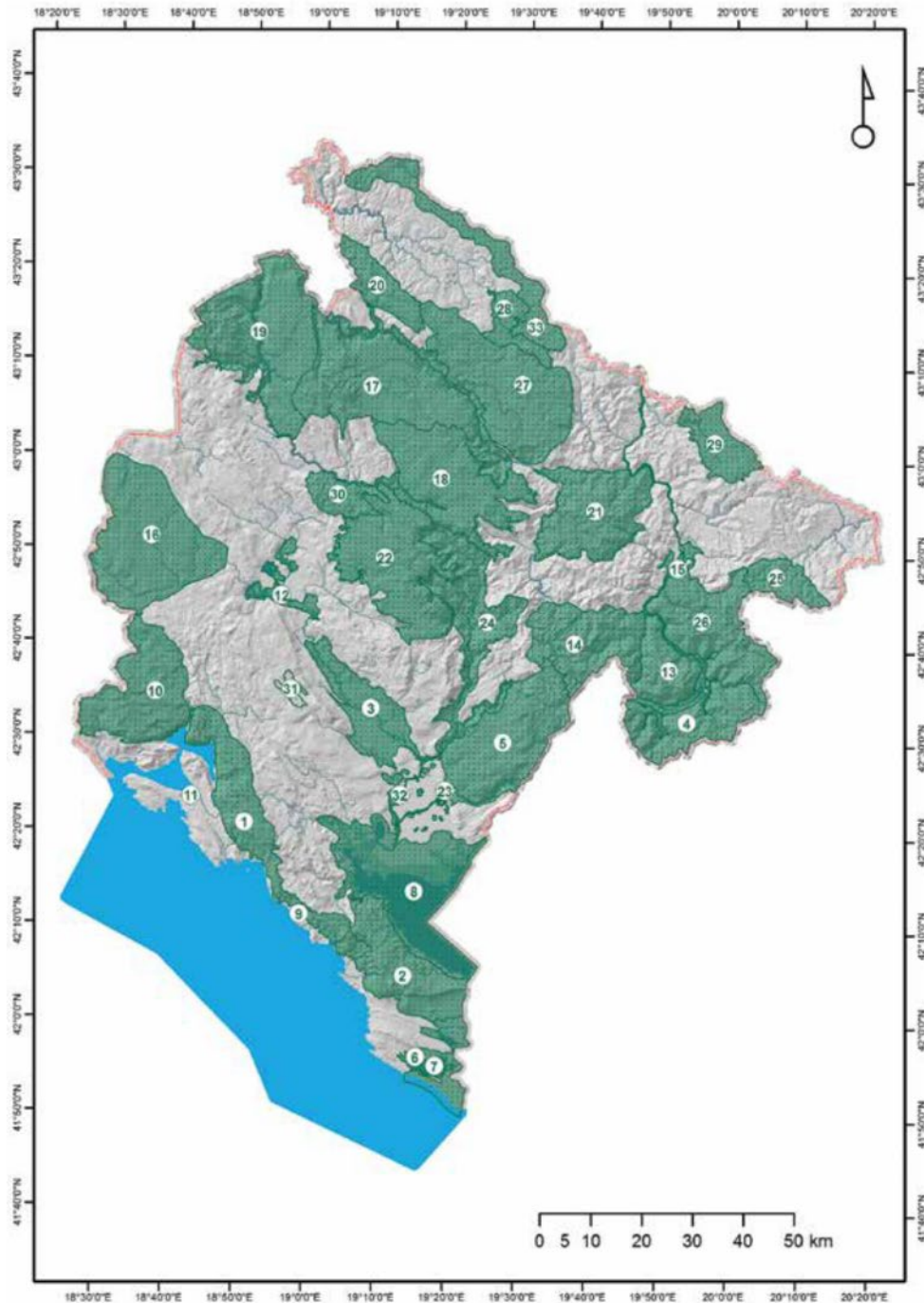
CONSERVING WILD BIRDS IN MONTENEGRO  
*A first inventory of potential Special Protection Areas*



Borut Rubinić  
Peter Sackl  
Mladen Gramatikov

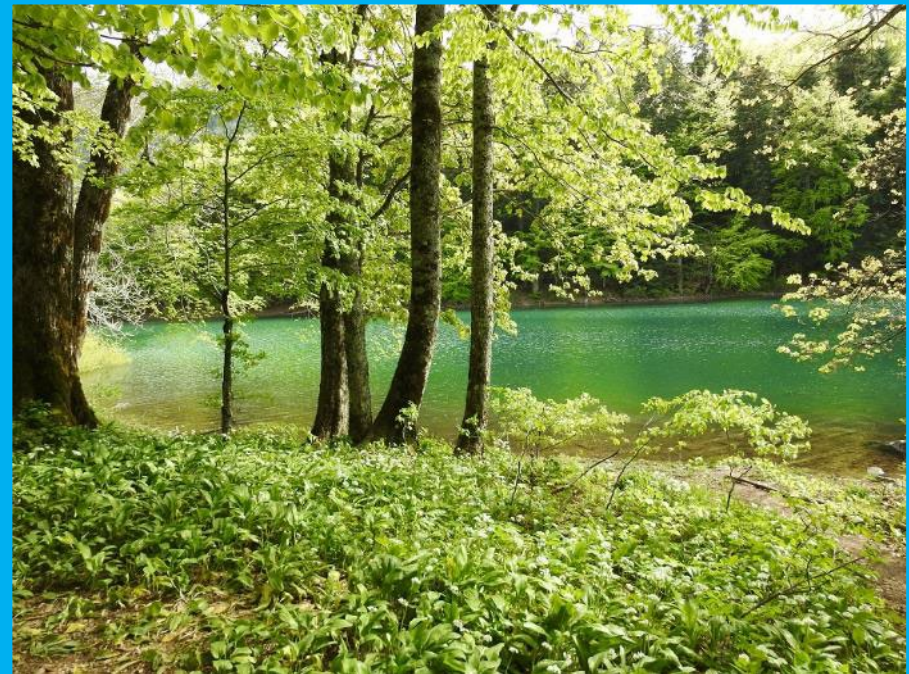
# Birds Directive

- About 50-60% of relevant areas mapped under the EU bird directive, steady progress since 2017.
- Preliminary evaluation indicates that 53.5% of the country fulfill the criteria for the EU Habitat directive (expected similar to the Carpathian mountains for instance)
- With next IPA project starting 2024, realistic chance to finish the job by 2026/2027



# Potential SPA Map Montenegro

- 33 sites touching upon all the 22 municipalities in the country including basically all nationally protected areas





## Priručnik za identifikaciju tipova staništa Crne Gore

od značaja za Evropsku uniju  
sa obrađenim glavnim indikatorskim vrstama

Đorđije Milanović, Danka Caković, Sead Hadžiablahović,  
Snežana Vuksanović, Vesna Mačić, Danijela Stešević, Milica Stanišić-Vujačić,  
Vera Biberdžić, Dmitar Lakušić

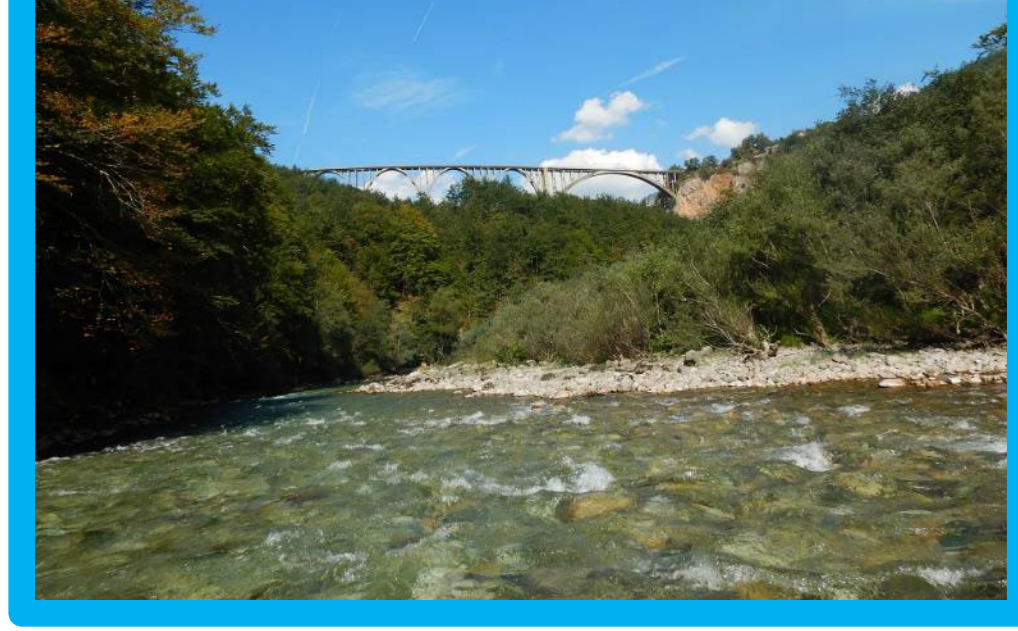
Podgorica - Banja Luka - Beograd 2021.

# Habitats Directive

- Between 50-60% mapped.
- About 40 mappers trained and handbook already in 2<sup>nd</sup> edition issued.
- Continuous government financing since 2019 (about 200.000 Euro/year)
- With next IPA project starting 2024, realistic chance to finish the job by 2026/2027

# Establishing of Ecological Network in Montenegro

- Obligation to establish the ecological Network in the nature conservation law of Montenegro since 2016.
- Bern Convention signed by Montenegro in 2026
- 32 Candidate Emerald Sites nominated since 2012, but no movement since then.
- Open Bern/Ramsar Case due to 5 Star Hotel Construction in Skadar Lake National Park and a Case to be opened because the Komarnica River is planned to be dammed for electricity production. Most Emerald sites in one or the other form under pressure (military range, construction, roads, bad management of existing PAs etc.)



# Numbers

- National PA system covering about 12% of land and 2% of the sea
- Candidate Emerald sites cover 15% of land and 2% of the sea
- Potential Special Protected Areas for SPA are covering about 53.5% of surface of Montenegro's land surface



# Conclusion

- The benchmarks for the Nature Conservation in Chapter 27 will be fulfilled long before other obligations can be met (rule of law, corruption, etc.)
- Montenegro is losing valuable habitats at a staggering rate. Most affected is the coast, but also the hinterland is not spared
- Following the Croatian approach to establish the Emerald network first and then convert it to the Natura 2000 network by entry is the way forward. Otherwise too many sites will be lost by entry.
- Integration of the ecological on all planning levels necessary, especially the spatial plan.





Thank You!