



A stream of cooperation

7 protected areas in 7 different countries:

- 1 Notranjska Regional Park, Slovenia
- 2 Žumberak-Samoborsko gorje Nature Park, Croatia
- 3 Kalkalpen National Park, Austria
- 4 Bükk National Park, Hungary
- 5 Apuseni Nature Park, Romania
- 6 Bijambare Protected Landscape, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 7 Tara National Park, Serbia

ECO KARST will introduce an assessment of ecosystem services in protected karst sites and pro-biodiversity businesses as a tangible and promising new business model for entrepreneurs in the pilot areas (best pro-biodiversity business ideas will be widely promoted).

Practical approaches on how to assess ecosystem services and successfully develop pro-biodiversity business will serve as a toolkit for the entire Danube and Dinaric region.

LEAD PARTNER CONTACT

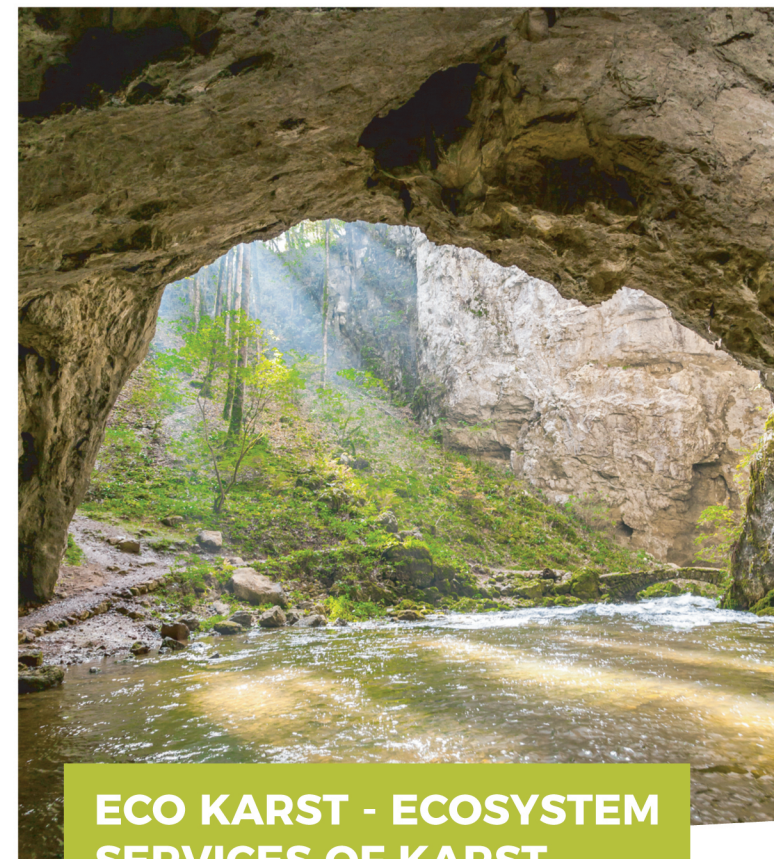
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- 7. Apuseni Nature Park photo archive
- 8. Bükk National Park photo archive
- 9. Žumberak-Samoborsko gorje Nature Park photo archive

16 PROJECT PARTNERS FROM 9 COUNTRIES



ECO KARST - ECOSYSTEM SERVICES OF KARST PROTECTED AREAS

Driving force of local sustainable development

Project co-funded by European Union Funds (ERDF, IPA)

KEY MESSAGE

Preserving nature and enhancing biodiversity in karst nature-protected areas leads to more jobs and better quality of life for local people.

OUR MISSION

To contribute to the protection, conservation and sustainable use of karst ecosystems in the Danube and Dinaric region by raising awareness about ecosystem services and increasing the number of committed local pro-biodiversity business entrepreneurs.



A caver admiring beautiful karst formations in Križna jama, Slovenia

IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRO-BIODIVERSITY BUSINESSES

Biodiversity Investment Opportunity (BIO) maps will be derived from ecosystem services maps after a careful analysis of possible pro-biodiversity businesses for each of the pilot sites.

Best practice pro-biodiversity businesses will be presented to project partners, and new pro-biodiversity business opportunities introduced to stakeholders from similar circumstances worldwide.



Recreation activities in Notranjska Regional Park, Slovenia



Beekeeper and his treasure, Hungary



Baking trout in clay, Croatia



Traditionally prepared bread, Romania

CAPACITY BUILDING

To efficiently work with stakeholders and achieve high quality outputs, the personnel working within protected areas will attend several trainings. Best practice examples were presented to stakeholders on a study tour in the Kalkalpen National Park. Local and transnational networks will be composed of different stakeholders.

MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Building on the best methodologies developed in recent scientific studies, the most suitable approaches for mapping and assessment of ecosystem services will be adapted and implemented in all seven pilot areas.



Preparing smoked fish, Hungary



Spirits distillery in Bajina Bašta, Serbia



Delicious buckwheat bread on the road to Bijambare, B&H



The last master carpenter finishing his drevak (traditional boat), Slovenia

OUR APPROACH

ECO KARST develops a holistic view of natural resource management and implements it in seven pilot areas. Building on a thorough analysis of the ecosystems and the society inhabiting them, we develop new business opportunities which not only provide more jobs, but contribute to nature conservation and community development as well.

PARTICIPATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

Participation is the key approach of the project, where stakeholders are carefully identified and analysed. Stakeholders representing a broad range of views are involved in all major project activities.



A view to the mountain chain of Sengengebirge in the Kalkalpen National Park, Austria

ACTION PLANS AND COMMON STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN KARST

Action plans will address major issues related to sustainable use of ecosystem services in all pilot areas and will generate improvements for the preservation and management of protected areas and their biodiversity. In addition, action plans will address concrete local efforts to set up and sustain pro-biodiversity businesses.

The Strategy for sustainable use of ecosystem services in karst will be built on the action planning processes in pilot areas and the identified pro-biodiversity businesses, and will include key recommendations for protection and sustainable use of ecosystem services.