



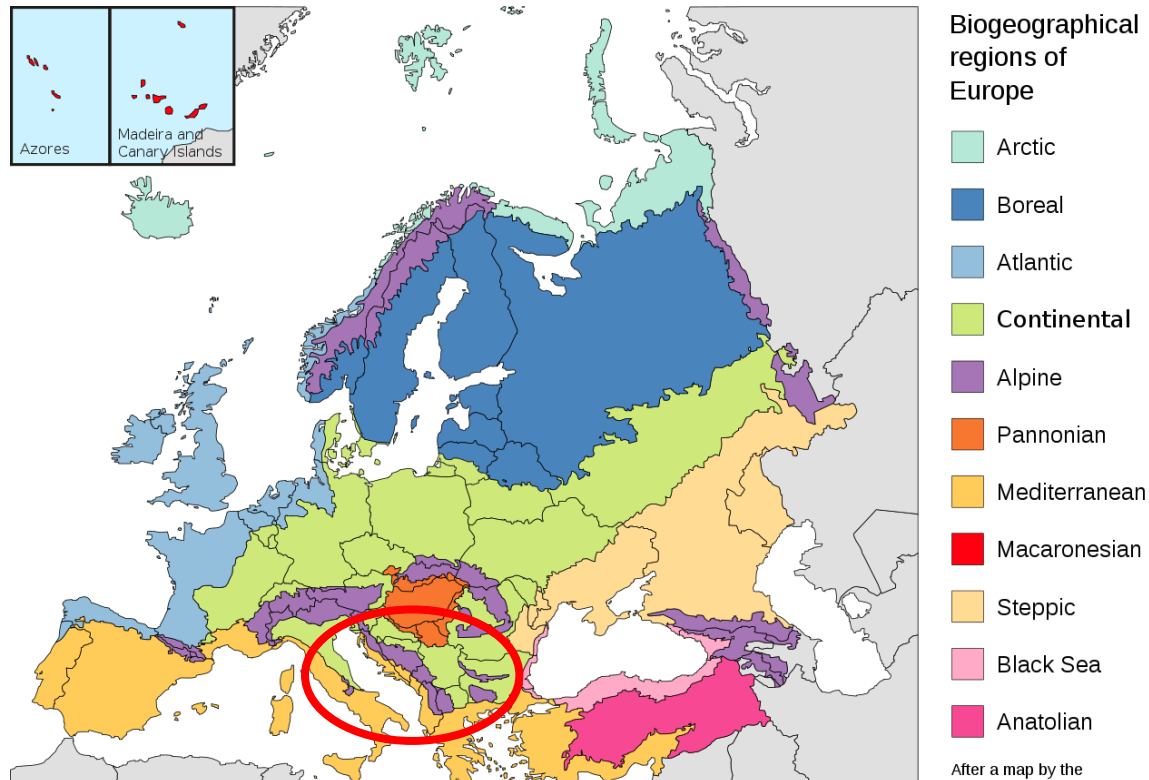
Lessons learned in the Western Balkans. Current evolving restoration and protections

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*15.10.2020, "Rivers as life
lines: Restoration &
Protection of Freshwater
in Europe"*

Western Balkans FW profile

4 biogeographical regions



- Landscapes – valleys, canyons, karstic fields, wetlands

- Species – endemics, cave fauna

Main threats



- Hidropower – reservoirs, pipes and dams
- Sediment extraction – gravel and sand
- Flood management measures – dams, embankments, retentions
- Pollution – waste water and solid waste
- Navigation
- Agriculture

Current conservation efforts

- Campaign to stop subsidizing sHPPs – losingrivers.com
- Setting up of durable river protection for free flowing rivers
- Integrated river basin management plans (WFD)
- Promotion of WB as a refuge of free flowing rivers
- Legal fight on national and international level
- Support to local initiatives against sHPPs



Situation in 2013



RIVERS AND RIVER REACHES MOST IMPORTANT FOR THE DINARIC ARC

- 296 rivers analysed
- Total length of 13,278km
- Total basin surface of around 165,000km²
- 66 % of the total river length analysed is outstanding (8,739km)
- The country with most preserved rivers is Montenegro with 76 % of outstanding rivers (898km), followed by Croatia with 73% (3301km), Bosnia and Herzegovina with 60% (2632km) and Albania also with 60% (1907km)

EU Biodiversity strategy 2030 –

Our goal is - Bending the curve of freshwater biodiversity loss - based on:

- Establishing **network of freshwater protected areas** with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value
- Concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the region by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss
- Transformation of water management and energy sector to use more NBS, restoration, mitigation and impact minimization measures

An aerial photograph showing a vibrant blue river meandering through a rugged, mountainous terrain. The landscape is characterized by steep, rocky slopes with patches of green vegetation and small trees. Several green, grassy fields are visible, some of which are separated by stone walls. The river flows from the upper left towards the bottom center of the frame. The overall scene depicts a natural, possibly protected, environment.

Thanks for your attention!



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