



TOGETHER
FOR BUNA

**YOUTH MANIFESTO FOR A SUSTAINABLE
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN**

BUNA RIVER






VALUES OF BUNA REGION

1.1. VALUING NATURAL TREASURES

Buna River Basin and its adjacent areas represent an important region of rich biocenosis and biotopes. Its pleasant climate and the number of sunny days create favorable conditions for a diverse biodiversity. Water and land are under constant change. Under such conditions, its rich ecosystem and impressive natural landscape with settlements come to life.



BUNA

is a slow typical plain river with numerous flows into the Adriatic Sea. Buna River basin includes also the Drini River basin and Shkodra Lake, which has the third largest freshwater discharge

into the Mediterranean, following Po and Rhone Rivers (more than Nile). Buna has historically been a navigable river. Small steamers have already sailed in Buna since the beginning of the 20th century, reaching the market of Shkodra, giving this city the features

of a seaport. In addition to transporting goods, this river has also been of great importance for fishing. Large quantities of fish would both descend from the lake to the sea, and ascend from the sea to the lake through Buna.



Here, with a simple observation only, one can see the sensational nature and freshwater, such as lakes, with their wetlands and lagoons, forming an extended and environmentally and socio-economically connected area, including Buna River as an integral part of these waters.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT
NATURAL PEARLS OF
BUNA RIVER BASIN ARE
PRESENTED HERE**

Parts of Buna River basin include the

NATURE PARK ULCINJ SALINA,

the largest Salina (saltpan) in the Adriatic Sea, a wetland with an area of nearly 15 km.



The Nature Park is a unique environment with an interesting history: it provides a special connection between the past, the present, and the future. Once known as a powerful industrial area on the Ulcinj coast for salt production, it is nowadays known as a bird paradise. Salt has been traditionally produced in harmony with the lake fauna, especially its birds.

With sea water and salt pumped into the lake, the feeding of birds was also favored. The symbol of saline is the flamingo. About 250 species of birds live there, making it one of the most interesting points for ornithologists and biologists. Numerous activities are organized in the Ulcinj Saline, including educational activities, fairs with local products and numerous guided visits. One of the most beautiful events was launched there in 2021, BirdSaltPeople: FEST.



A scenic view of a riverbank with several trees in the foreground and a body of water in the background. The trees are lush green, and the water is a calm blue. The sky is clear and blue. The foreground shows a sandy and gravelly bank with some low-lying vegetation.

BUNA FLOODPLAIN FORESTS

annually transpire about 2.5 million tons of water into the air, purifying it at the same time mitigating summer droughts. The depressions of Velipoje Reserve and Ulcinj Salina with lake Zogaj wetland, subject of long inundation, are dominated by narrow-leaved ash forests (*Fraxinus angustifolia*); alongside the river the silver poplar forests (*Populus alba*) are very common; black alder forests (*Alnus glutinosa*) develop in the alluvial plains along the coast, meanwhile in small fragments, near the mouth of the Buna River delta, develops relictually in the drier parts of alluvial plains the forest of the endemic variant of *Quercus robur* var. *scutariensis*.

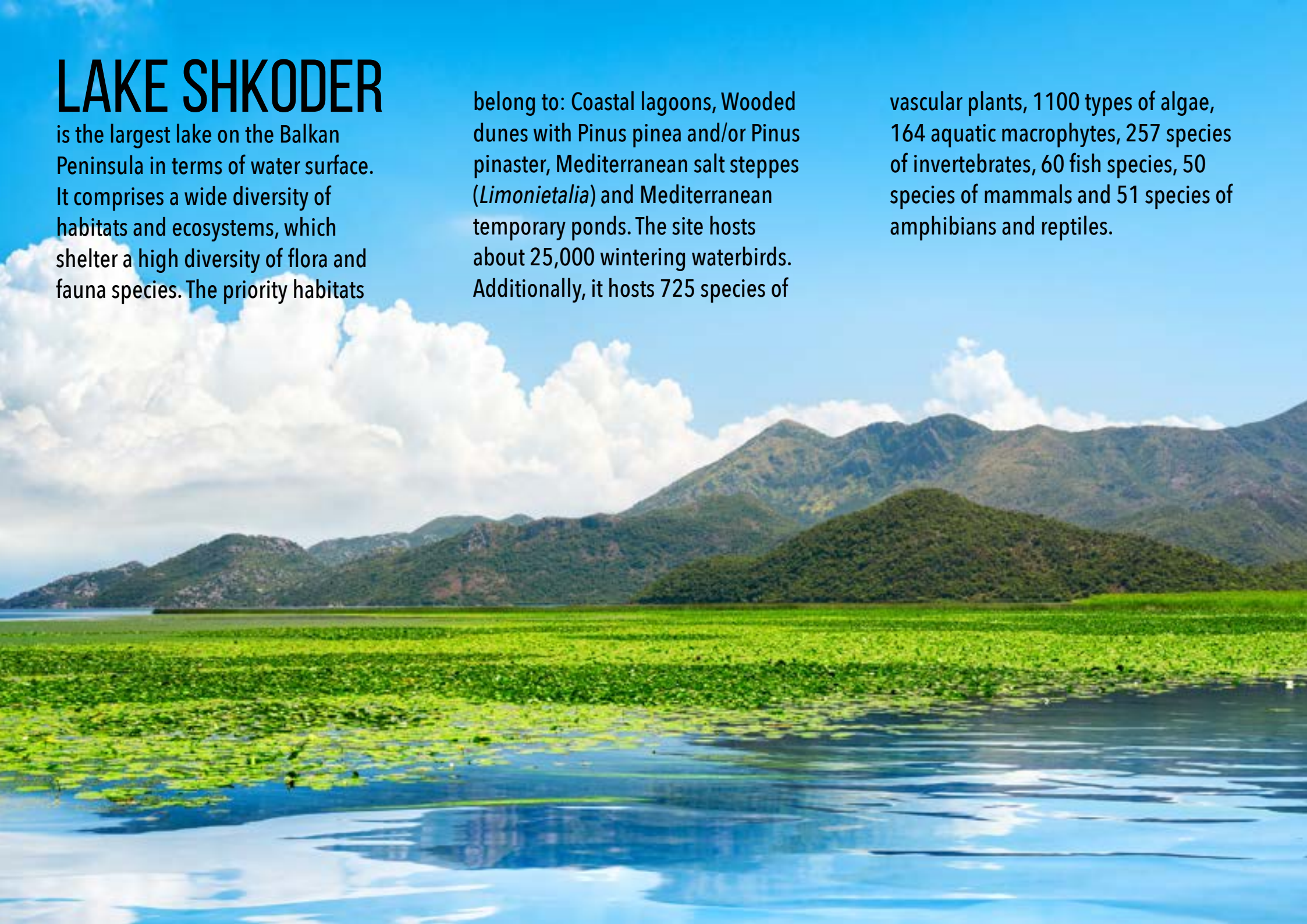
Some of the most typical trees in the floodplain forests are the locally known as: Shelqa, Plepi i Eger, Frashni i ujit, Vidhi, Rranja, and Lisi i Ujit.

LAKE SHKODER

is the largest lake on the Balkan Peninsula in terms of water surface. It comprises a wide diversity of habitats and ecosystems, which shelter a high diversity of flora and fauna species. The priority habitats

belong to: Coastal lagoons, Wooded dunes with *Pinus pinea* and/or *Pinus pinaster*, Mediterranean salt steppes (*Limonietalia*) and Mediterranean temporary ponds. The site hosts about 25,000 wintering waterbirds. Additionally, it hosts 725 species of

vascular plants, 1100 types of algae, 164 aquatic macrophytes, 257 species of invertebrates, 60 fish species, 50 species of mammals and 51 species of amphibians and reptiles.



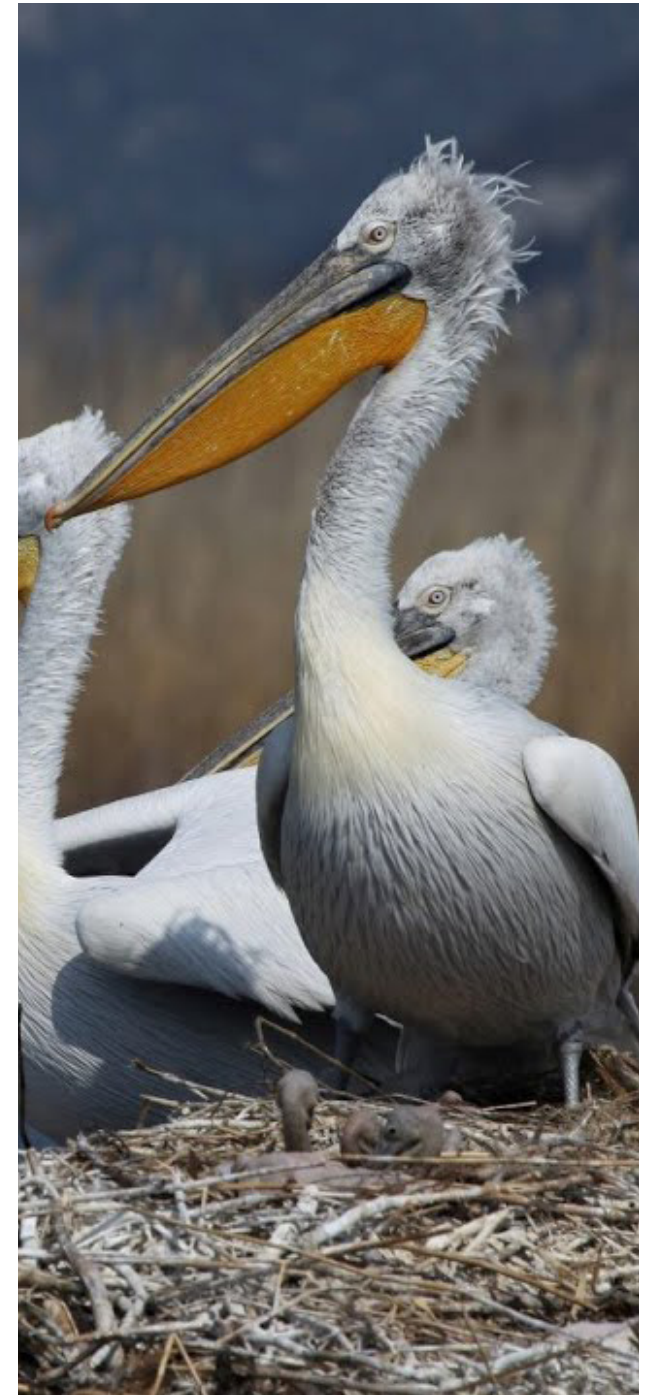
THE PELICAN ISLAND

is an interesting part of the lake. Its located on the border between the two states, it is an island with limestone without vegetation, and a resting place for the Pelican during the day, not a nesting place.

The wonderful environment of Lake Shkodra can also be enjoyed from Kraja region. Kraja area is rich in a beautiful nature, clean air and landscape of large areas of the lake, mountains, biodiversity and cultural historical heritage.



© Jetmir Troshani





GREEN AND FERTILE PLAIN OF BUNA

Buna field is known for its rich soil. In winter, Buna bed expands, bringing adequate moisture, minerals, and other substances enriching its soil. One can easily notice that the fields, forests and hills around Buna coast have a very bright green color.

This is the reason for the diversity of vegetation, fruits and vegetables growing in the coastal areas of Buna.





VILUNI LAGOON

is the only remaining natural lagoon in the Buna Delta. With the karst chain of Mount Kolaj in the background, the lagoon offers a magnificent wild natural

landscape. The lagoon is a natural nest-site for Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and the only natural breeding ground in the delta for the Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*). It is

an important feeding ground for Pygmy Cormorant and Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*), and a significant locality for waterbirds, especially during the winter.

SHAS LAKE

is a small plain lake in Ana e Malit.





Local archeological evidence add to the values of this lake.

Various events and activities are organized around Shas Lake. One more event is to be created by the Youth Club called "Let's Unite for Buna" with the slogan: Smart Choices for Clean Runoff and a Better Future.

With the lake being not yet visited by many, paddling on it gives you a sense of intimacy, and you may as well practice the mindfulness technique without any efforts.

Furthermore, the variety of birds with their odes to celebration of nature will make the experience a paradise. Special attractions include: The Lake Eye - an underwater spring in the lake, the wooden house built on an oak by fishermen, and their traditional fishing methods.



VALUES OF BUNA REGION

1.2. CULTURAL HERITAGE

The cultural heritage of Buna River region is rich, dating from the Paleolithic period and developed throughout the Neolithic, Eneolithic, Bronze, Iron, Antiquity, Middle Ages, New and Contemporary periods. This historical course has created great cultural wealth.

OLD TOWN OF ULCINJ

Due to its exceptional cultural values, the Old Town of Ulcinj has been protected by national law since 1961. It is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative list based on its outstanding and universal values, including among others its citadele walls, housing culture, architecture, and natural balance. The archaeological and historical heritage of Ulcinj is of great value since prehistoric times.

Urbanization began during the time of the Illyrian state under King Bardhyli. It reached its peak during the reign of King Agron and Queen Teuta. The location of the old town of Ulcinj on the Adriatic coast creates an excellent opportunity for all kinds of cultural activities, including a museum complex and a "Summer Stage", as well as permanent and temporary exhibitions

at the Art Gallery. A culinary highlight is, for example, the Okra Day. The fairs of local artisans and producers are also attractive, as is the colony of painters and the lively life of the city.

The value of the old town consists of the fact that the town itself is a living cultural heritage.





THE MONASTERY OF SHEN SHERGJ (ST. SERGIUS) AND SHEN BAKU

also known by people as the Church of Shna Prende, is one of the most important Benedictine monasteries and most beautiful monastic church on Buna region. It has also been one of the most important trade squares (fairs) in the Western Balkans. Buna which was navigable for both, large ships and galleass to the port of Shirgji, was not only crossed by distant merchants from Dubrovnik and Venice, but also served for regional traffic, especially for the transport of goods from Ulcinj and Bar. Together with Shen Kolli (St. Kolli) at the mouth of Buna and with the monastery of Shen Meria (St. Mary) of Rotec near Tivar/Bar, it forms a Benedictine triangle, famous throughout the region.

The International Day of Archaeological Parks is celebrated on April 18th on this archeological site. During the pandemic, the site served also as an open theatre.





THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF SHAS

Another attraction of Buna area is the archaeological site of Shas with its important 8000 years of cultural heritage. "Spring on Ana e Malit" manifestations are organized on this locality. They promote the cultural heritage of Buna area, including ethnography and costumes, traditional local musical activities, musical evenings, traditional local food, folk games, sports activities like chess, table tennis, volleyball, marathon running, biking, and others.

A visit to this locality gives you an interesting and unforgettable feeling, learning also about its legends and history.

Similarly, to other ancient towns like Shkodra and Ulcinj, Shas has also had its own coins with the inscription „sovacii civitas“ (meaning: the statute of the municipality, in this case the municipality of Shas). This money is of special value, as it shows how the architecture of old town used to look like in the Renaissance style, with three-floors, colonnades and towers.

THE ANCIENT TRAIL OF MILLË-BOLAJ

with its two important landmarks – “Leqet e Millës-Ublat e Bolajve”, is of

great historic and cultural importance. It is always recalled with love and nostalgia due to the life-bearing importance it had for the lives of the people in this area.

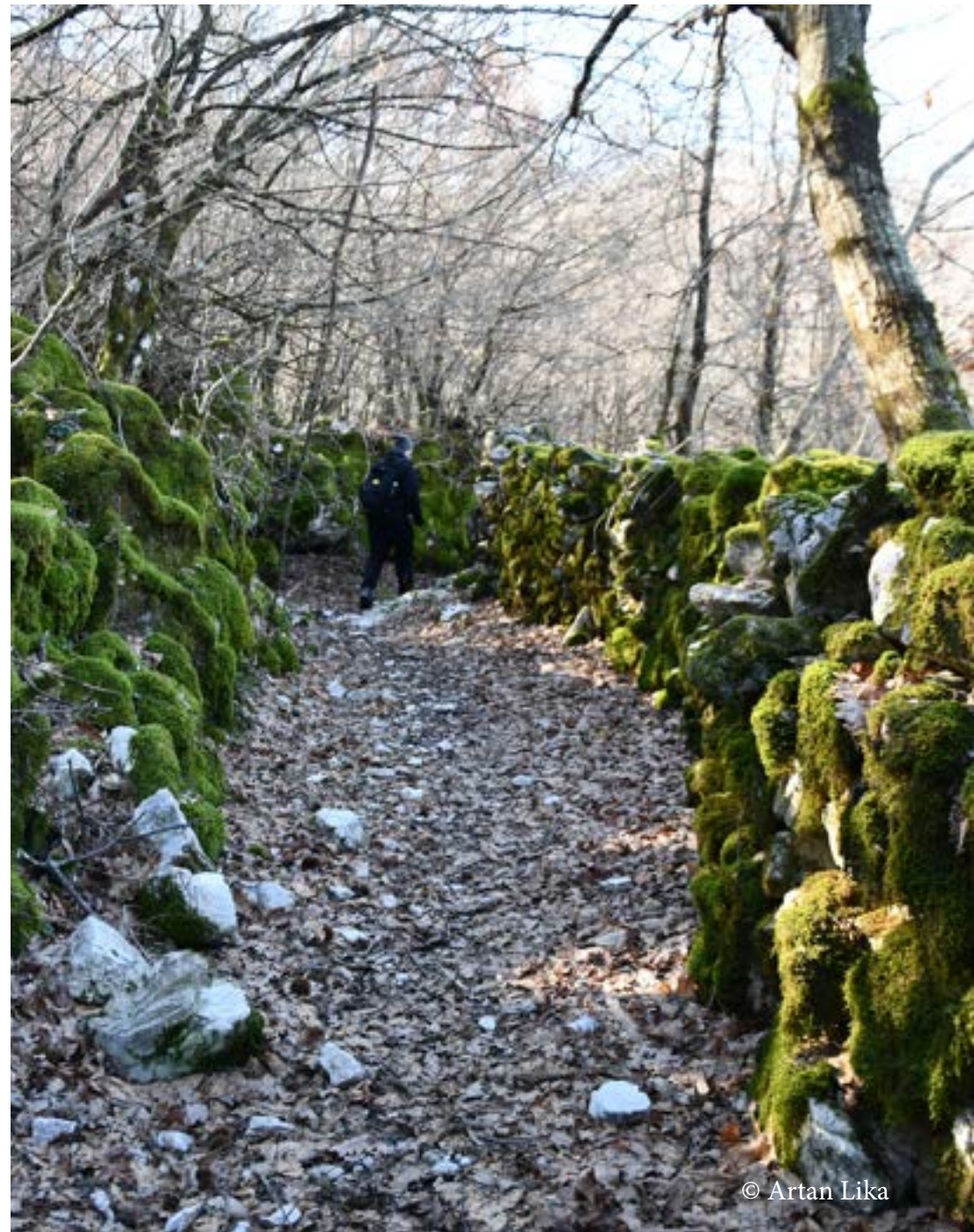
The 9.2 km long path leads through serpentine mountain trails and woodlands, where you will cross ancient

flagstone steps and ways adorned with dry stone walls and the chestnut forests. Here you can also find the Wells of Bolaj region. A 5-hours walk along the marked trail, with luscious nature and ancient history, is followed by panoramic views.





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THE LOCAL AUTOCHTHONOUS POPULATION

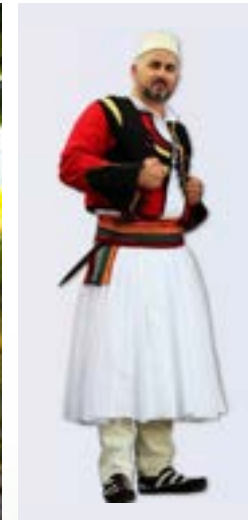
both on the Albanian and the Montenegrin part of Buna region is Albanian.

Local Youngsters from both sides of the river are therefore familiar with the same traditions, folk customs, and art.

Clothing is one of the most important elements of folk art. The traditional dresses are characterized by an artistic beauty, and they vary by province and gender. Folk costumes represent history in itself.

An important value of Buna region is its costume design, with authentic models being well preserved from the as a living heritage still in use today in cultural festivals and activities.

The autochthonous costume design of Buna River consists of a long white shirt (dress).



© NVO ORA © Rozafa



© Valon Kovaçi



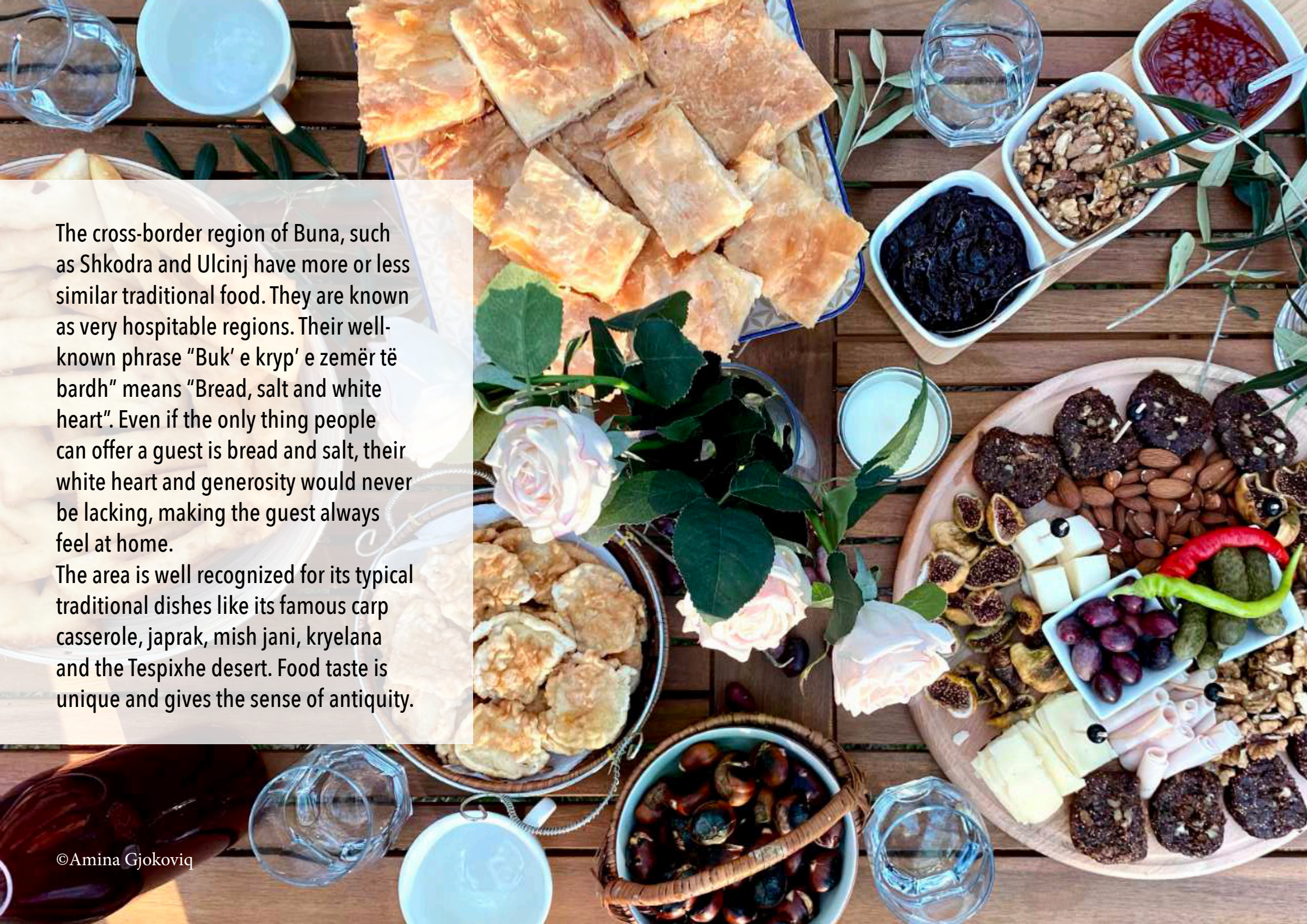
Shkodra, as well as Ulcinj, became very famous trade and handicraft centers over the centuries. Works in wood, iron, copper, alabaster, precious gold and silver materials, leather, wool, etc., woven or embroidered materials, carry in themselves precious values.



ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM IN DRAGINA

A small ethnographic museum is established on the ruins of an old house in Dragina. The owner of the house was a passionate collector of ancient items. When he set up the museum, many citizens of Ana e Malit contributed by bringing old but very well-preserved items. Today, one can also see there the lifestyle of the local ancestors, their works and their passions, as well as the traditional cuisine of the housewife Zana Kovaçi. Besides, during literary evenings the history and legends of the region are told. Important days are marked in this museum.





The cross-border region of Buna, such as Shkodra and Ulcinj have more or less similar traditional food. They are known as very hospitable regions. Their well-known phrase "Buk' e kryp' e zemër të bardh" means "Bread, salt and white heart". Even if the only thing people can offer a guest is bread and salt, their white heart and generosity would never be lacking, making the guest always feel at home.

The area is well recognized for its typical traditional dishes like its famous carp casserole, japrak, mish jani, kryelana and the Tespixhe desert. Food taste is unique and gives the sense of antiquity.

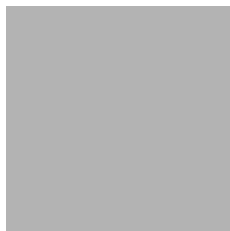


WATCH OUT!

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS THAT GIVE CAUSE FOR CONCERN

- Lack of strategic and elaborated documents on the sustainable integrated protection of Buna;
 - Lack of an institution responsible for the sustainable management of Buna River;
 - In the absence of sustainable maintenance planning, Buna biosphere is increasingly exposed to poor maintenance and misuse for tourism needs and wild construction;
 - Due to the lack of landfills and recycling centers, waste disposal is a serious threat;
- All these deficiencies create numerous disturbing elements threatening Buna River basin.

Here are some of such threatening elements illustrated with photos:



POLLUTION



UNTREATED WASTEWATER DISCHARGE

A photograph showing a body of water heavily polluted with dark, foamy discharge. The water is a murky brown color, and there are numerous small, white, foamy bubbles scattered throughout. In the foreground, there are several dark, irregularly shaped objects floating in the water, likely pieces of debris or sludge. The background shows a rocky or pebbly shoreline with some orange-brown staining, possibly from rust or other pollutants. The overall scene depicts a significant environmental problem related to untreated wastewater discharge.

EUTROPHICATION

©Andrijana Mićanović





DEFORESTATION



ILLEGAL HUNTING

EROSION



MASSIVE TOURISM



INADEQUATE LAND USE



INADEQUATE URBAN PLANNING





ACTION AREAS

**OUR IDEAS FOR SUSTAINABLE
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
IN BUNA REGION**





3.1. VALUING AND CONSERVING OUR NATURAL TREASURES

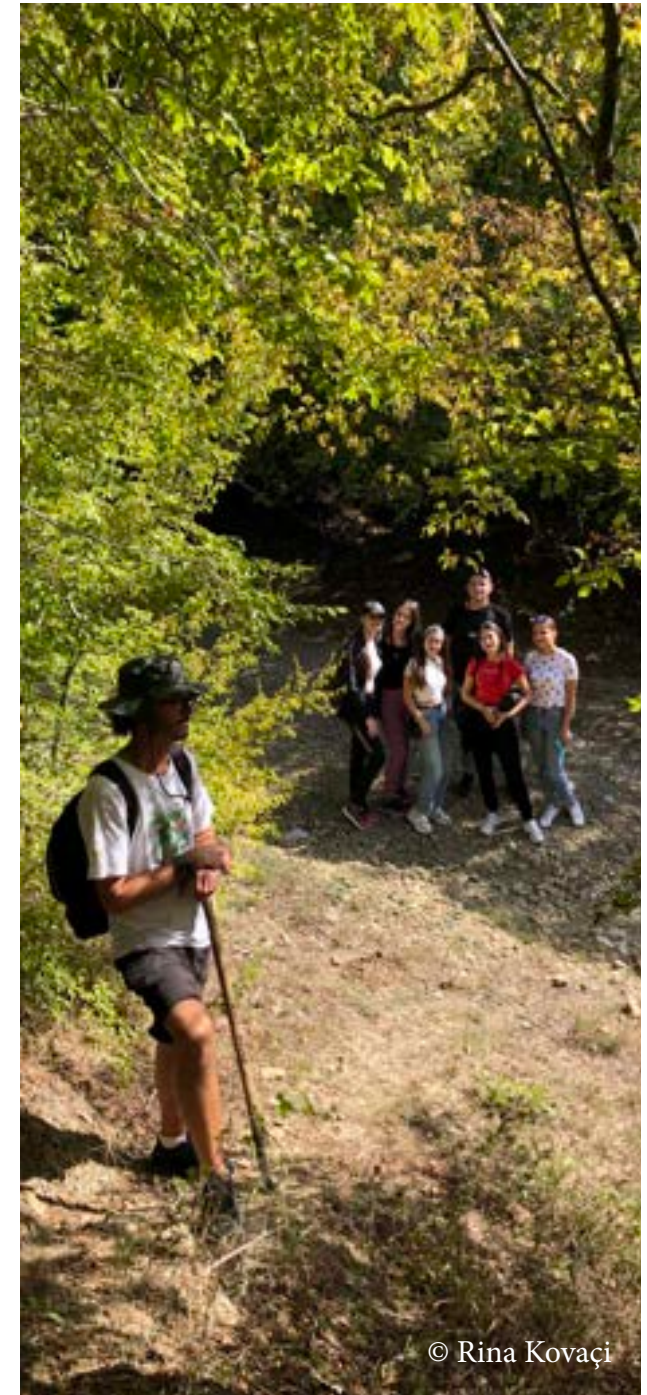
The first efforts to protect the biodiversity and natural resources in the transboundary water eco-systems were undertaken in Montenegro with the declaration of Lake Shkodra a National Park in 1983. In 1990, the entire Lake Shkodra was declared a Water Area of International Importance and in 2005, the Albanian part was declared a Natural Park. In the same year, "Buna River – Velipoje" Protected Landscape was established. Also, on the Albanian side, this area is included in the Ramsar area "Lake Shkodra and Buna River", which was declared in 2006. Being part of the European Green Belt, the landscape is also designated as an Important Bird and Plant Area. As such, it supports extraordinary threatened and endemic bird and plant species.

These plans for specific parts of the Buna water system should be advanced with the introduction of an integrated management plan and the creation of entities with smaller specialized units

following up on compliance with the management plan requirements.

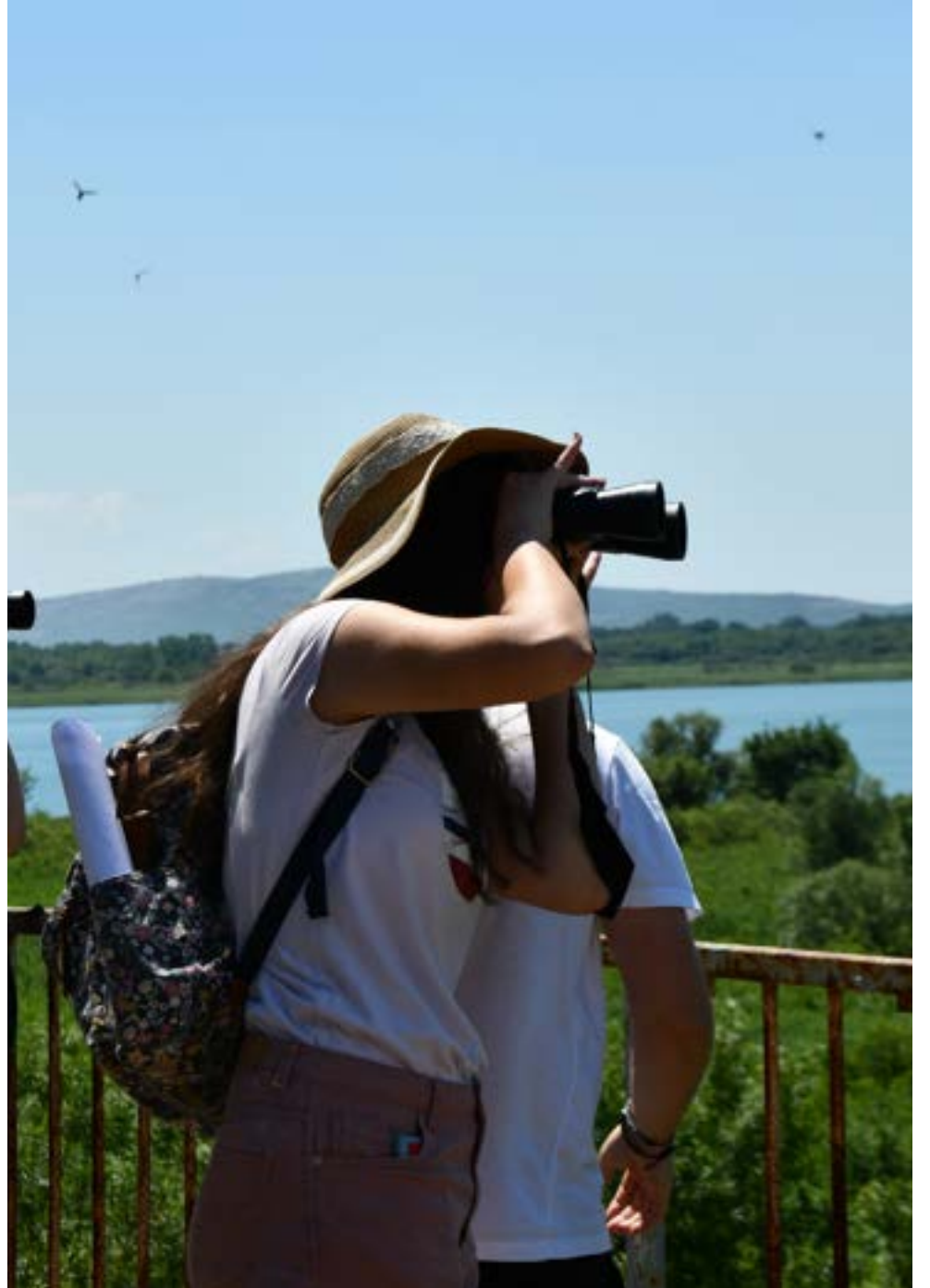
Efforts towards a more effective management of biodiversity and natural resources of this transboundary water ecosystem have culminated during the last decade with the development of management plans.

Within this frame, in order to further value and conserve the natural treasures of these ecosystems, the Youth Clubs of Shkodra and Ulcinj decided to design and engage in activities supporting a more sustainable management of the region.



©Robert Janković





Objective:

Ensure water quality and level of lake surface fluctuations suitable for aquatic communities and public use.

Youth Club activities:

1. Discussion meetings with the restaurants located close to Buna River Basin to make them understand how important it is not to dispose organic waste into the river.
2. Organize Environmental education in nature – through scout activities.

Objective:

Protect biodiversity and improve wildlife management, in particular important habitats and species.

Youth Club activities:

1. Volunteer for the support of bird counting census within the International Bird Census
2. Promote and maintain hiking and biking trails to explore natural treasures in Buna/Bojana
3. Cooperate with licensed fishermen and organize education sessions to promote traditional fishing methods in order to keep fish communities at a good level and conservation status
4. Plant trees in areas which are de-forested due to fire.

Objective:

Improve the protection and management of the landscape and cultural heritage resources

Youth Club activities:

1. Tour offers which give people the opportunity to promote trails that provide natural and cultural information
2. Replace dead or cut trees at the borders of the river to block erosion which is needed for protecting both natural and cultural heritage. For example: if the area is eroded, the old church walls will not be sustainable and it will end up in the river.
3. Clean up actions at the most problematic areas for illegal waste disposal: Ura e Bunes se Vjeter close to Shkoder city, Zues village and delta of the Perroi i Thate.
4. Environmental education on proper waste disposal with villagers living along the Perroi i Thate.



© Rina Kovaçi



©Aurora Zylaj



© Rina Kovaçi



Also, the Youth Club wishes to organize various events to:

- Raise awareness,
- Clean with the help of the community and competent bodies,
- Clean old paths and cultural roads and share information on their value,
- Commit to presenting the values of Buna River region, why we should work on its preservation and sustainable development,
- Set up cross-border camps for exchange of experience,
- Ensure appropriate valorization of some points of special importance for sustainable tourism development.
- Contribute to the commitment of the community to offer local products and handicrafts.

This will be realized through other organizations and institutions related to policies of preservation, protection and promotion of natural heritage, etc.

Such awareness can come when the area is visited, researched, analyzed, studied and then promoted.







3.2. OUR IDEAS FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT



Sustainable development is a crucial question not only for nature, but also for tourism, because intact nature, biodiversity survival and cultural heritage are the most important potentials for tourist destinations.

Knowing that Buna and the region around it represent a great potential for sustainable development of nature- and community- based tourism, the Youth Clubs like to support such approaches. Specifically, we want to work to develop more authentic, close to nature, but also adventurous offers. This includes, but is not limited to: hiking, cycling, mountain biking, wild swimming, canoeing, kayaking, SUP boarding, birdwatching, gastronomy adventures (discovering the slow food traditions and an ancient wine culture), art and photography, cultural, social and educational activities.

Nature and community-based tourism has several aspects that characterize it, including preserving the authenticity of nature, society, tradition and mentality. By implementing a rebranding of this area as an authentic or “untouched” area in these aspects, as well as preparing the infrastructure and legislation to support such rebranding, we believe that in a relatively short period of time, Buna region can be revitalized economically and ecologically, bringing multiplier effects to the city’s economy.

The youth group in cooperation with non-governmental organizations have cleaned, marked and revitalized this ancient cultural path “Leqet e Milles-Ublat e Bolajve”, placing two information boards on both sides of the road leading to the ancient path, youth group also took the initiative that with the help of sponsors to print information brochures for the path in question.



Also the members of the youth club are committed to offer an authentic and unique offer in this region, based on nature and in the community called "Reborn by Adventures"

Thus, we will try and commit for the region to have a sustainable development.









**THE FOLLOWING TWO PROPOSALS ILLUSTRATE WHAT
OUR IDEAS FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COULD MEAN**



1. BUNA ON WHEELS

(shortly taken from the event proposal)

In Dajç village there is a center for bicycles, but it is non-functional yet and owned by the Municipality of Shkodra. We plan to revitalize this center by making it available both for the local youth and guests.

We offer to be engaged in opening, cleaning and marking bicycle paths. The Buna River embankment offers opportunities for cycling throughout its length, as well as opportunities to visit various points of interest such as cultural sites or bird watching spots.

Dajçi bike center will have mainly two functions:
Youth education about green transport and outdoor activities such as biking along Buna River side, as well as activities during summer camps.
The second function will contribute to ecotourism.
Two volunteer from Shkodra Youth Club will organise biking tours in Buna River exploring destinations around Buna. Guests can rent a bike and get a guide for biking. Its incomes will go for the sustainability of the center and employment of the Youth Club members.

2. DAJÇI ADVENTURE PARK

It consists of creating a new tourist destination offering services in adventure tourism. Bregica is part of Buna River. It is one of the five destinations on biking around the river. It is a perfect place we can use as an adventure park, a potential area for the development of this activity as it is located in an area rich in hardwood and sandy shore by Buna River. Sailing activities can develop in the area using ecological means such as canoeing and stand-up paddling. Birdwatching can also be promoted, as the area is very rich in water birds.

Other activities to be developed might also include yoga, retreat, camping, cycling, and sports. Adventure through wooden installations that will be placed through trees without damaging the area in question. These activities are environmentally friendly as they do not cause pollution, noise, or carbon dioxide emissions.

©Rina Kovacı



3.3. PROMOTE AND DEVELOP ORGANIC SOLUTIONS

Promoting organic and sustainable solutions is one of the goals of the Youth Clubs, including the way of life of our ancestors, which was more in harmony with nature.

Can the healthy past coexist with technology which can also be destructive? Our ancestors used organic methods for developing agriculture and livestock, with such methods being still used by some families. The members of the Youth Clubs believe that these traditional ways of life should be handed down, carried on and set as a priority in the sustainable development of Buna Region and in no way forgotten. This includes, for example, the cultivation of traditional agricultural crops, livestock and poultry, traditional tillage methods, as well as traditional processing of agricultural products.

The Youth Clubs will contribute to promoting green and organic solutions, considering this the only sustainable and long-term way to go.

The Youth Clubs could also engage in education and promotion activities which would support eating organic and local products. This will increase the market demand and hopefully encourage local farmers to choose organic solutions.



As youngsters of Buna region, we will organize:

1. Picnics in nature with local organic products with the children of local farmers. In addition to relaxing, enjoying natural values and benefits of the clean air, we will also talk and share with them the benefits of local farming and damages caused by pesticides.
2. Camping in a certified agro-tourism farm for increasing knowledge and promoting organic products.

Provide space around the bike center in Dajçi to the local farmers and villages around Buna where they can organize fairs of their local products.





ASSOCIATION

DR.MARTIN SCHNEIDER-JACOBY
2016



3.4. TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION: FROM THE IRON CURTAIN TO EUROPEAN GREEN BELT

Buna has been a border area for many years. This situation has made its two shores have different fates and not have an integral policy for it as a whole. Completely blocked as a result of the dictatorships installed, natural and comfortable social communication with the Buna River basin has been disabled. Experiencing and enjoying the river has been impossible for decades. The dictatorial border set on the river has had the same fate as "the iron curtains" created at this time and in other countries around Europe.

The Youth Clubs on both sides of Buna River nowadays fight for a shared goal, which is the preservation of Buna biosphere. This should be done through various activities such as organizing Youth transboundary Day, or cross-border camping with various educational games. Genuine cross-border cooperation is an essential issue in preserving Buna River and its surrounding region, and this cooperation should work not only with the Youth Clubs, but also with the community and relevant bodies and institutions responsible for drafting quality river protection documents and protecting the river biosphere.

As for the long-term transboundary cooperation for the joint natural and cultural values of Buna River, there are two activities that both Youth Clubs can coordinate in cooperation with local and regional stakeholders. These activities will stand for joint annual celebrations of our transboundary treasures.

1) Joint celebration of the Lake Party (third week of June) - it will require cross-border cooperation for designing of celebration arrangement, agreement, implementation and the transboundary atmosphere.

2) Joint celebration of the Green Belt Day (September) - the activity is thought to be a transboundary tour starting from each country and gathering at a joint point. Two itineraries are designed as alternatives of these celebrations:

a) Cycling Itinerary

Starting point SUP Dajçi (Buna, bike center), moving towards Buna River. Meeting point on Buna shore with the Montenegrin Youth Club, continuing celebrations.

b) Canoeing Itinerary

Starting point in Shkoder Lake and canoeing towards Liqeni i Shasit
Starting Point in Ulcinj (lake) and canoeing towards Liqeni i Shasit
Liqeni i Shasit is the final joint destination, where a cultural and natural event can be organized for future celebrations.









BUNA RIVER REGION

– A POTENTIAL TRANSBOUNDARY UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE?

We want to create the necessary conditions to develop a cross-border relationship in terms of the development of the Buna River area, in order to properly preserve its natural and cultural values.

People and nature can benefit from the conservation and sustainable development of Buna region. We argue that this development should be in full harmony and cooperation from both countries.

We want the former iron curtain to be transformed into a European Green Belt, create a suitable environment for a cross-border and international exchange of experience.

A UNESCO biosphere reserve could be the right way to achieve this!



Unlike traditional protected areas, modern biosphere reserves deal not only with nature conservation, but rather focus on people and their management. Biosphere reserves thus pursue an ambitious goal, namely, reconcile the pillars of nature conservation, education and awareness rising, scientific research, environmental monitoring and sustainable regional development. In this way, model regions for the coexistence of man and nature are created. As of 2022, there are in total 727 sites in 131 countries worldwide that have been officially recognized by UNESCO as biosphere reserves, 22 of them are transboundary regions. In Albania and Montenegro, so far, there are only two sites (one in each country) part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Buna River Basin and Shkoder Lake are very attractive, unique and diverse cultural landscapes. The main part of this natural complex is covered

by water ecosystems, surrounded by fertile lands, wetlands and forests, all of high richness of biodiversity. Together with its surrounding pastures and agricultural lands, it represents a unique landscape connected with historical and cultural heritage of the region.

In its entirety, the region is an intact natural area, which provides both local people and guests with ecologically clean products and an authentic offer of special quality. Our Youth Club, as well as the state institutions and citizens carry out environmental monitoring, educational as well as promotional activities for sustainability. In this way we will achieve the protection and sustainable development of the area. We believe that a basic precondition for achieving this noble goal would be the establishment here of a UNESCO Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

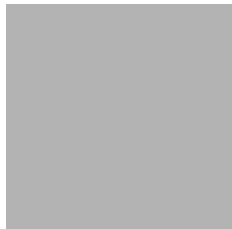
The foundation of the Youth Clubs and their action have been inspired among

others by MAB Youth Forum, organized for individuals 18 – 35 years of age who live or work in a biosphere reserve. A biosphere reserve status offers youth more opportunities to become active in the MAB Programme and become agents of change, by strengthening their presence in governance, participating in action, in particular with communities in their biosphere reserves, and empowering them to make their voices heard in debates on biodiversity conservation, climate change and sustainable regional development.



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**YOUTH
ACTING
FOR BUNA
REGION**



5.1. OUR VISION

FROM A FORMER IRON CURTAIN TO A GREEN BELT

The development of a sustainable environment with sustainable principles, in harmony with nature and with the cultural and natural values of Buna River area, creating a place suitable for experiencing values and a lasting peace.

Our vision for the future is to open a window of new perspectives for young people to stay and contribute to their homeland, raise their awareness of the proper use of local natural potential, and encourage them towards as an ecological life as possible in harmony with nature.

YOUTH MANIFESTO FOR A SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN BUNA RIVER



5.2. WHO WE ARE

THE YOUTH CLUB IN MONTENEGRO is a group of young people who are united by an activist spirit for the same purpose. The initiatives of the Youth Club for cross-border and institutional cooperation was taken on the basis of above-mentioned goals. Considering that this Youth Club is represented by young people with a high capacity we have a great hope for change. The active members of the Youth Club in Montenegro are: Medina Cena, Nermina Luca, Elodi Jakupi, Korab Kraja, Robert Jankovic, Arlind Veliu, Artan Lika, Rina Kovaçi.

Youth Club motto:

**“CHANGE IS THE END RESULT
OF ALL TRUE LEARNING”**

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THE YOUTH CLUB IN ALBANIA is a mix of young people from University of Shkodra, students from high schools, young guides, young athletes, bikers, hikers and youngsters from different schools from different area in Shkodra Municipality. The active members of the Youth Club in Albania are: Bedat Dini, Fatjona Dizdari, Edis Hoti, Alevio Gega, Aurora Zylaj.



5.3. WHY...



RINA KOVAČI

the mentor of the Youth Club in Montenegro

Nature moves me. I like to enjoy beauty in different ways, preserving nature and respecting its laws.

The motivation to be part of Youth Club as a mentor came as a result of my love for nature and cultural and historical heritage. Fascinated by the potential of Buna River basin and promoting it through various activities, I took advantage of all the opportunities available to give my contribution and give Nature a voice.

Motivation to have a sustainably developed space, the right conditions for creating an environment with a healthy perspective in all aspects and solidarity between the generations, stop migration especially among youth, socio-economic development of the country has led the group of young people to create a mission during this process which is the joint work for the creation of the above mentioned standards and a productive cross-border cooperation

5.3. WHY...



AURORA ZYLAJ

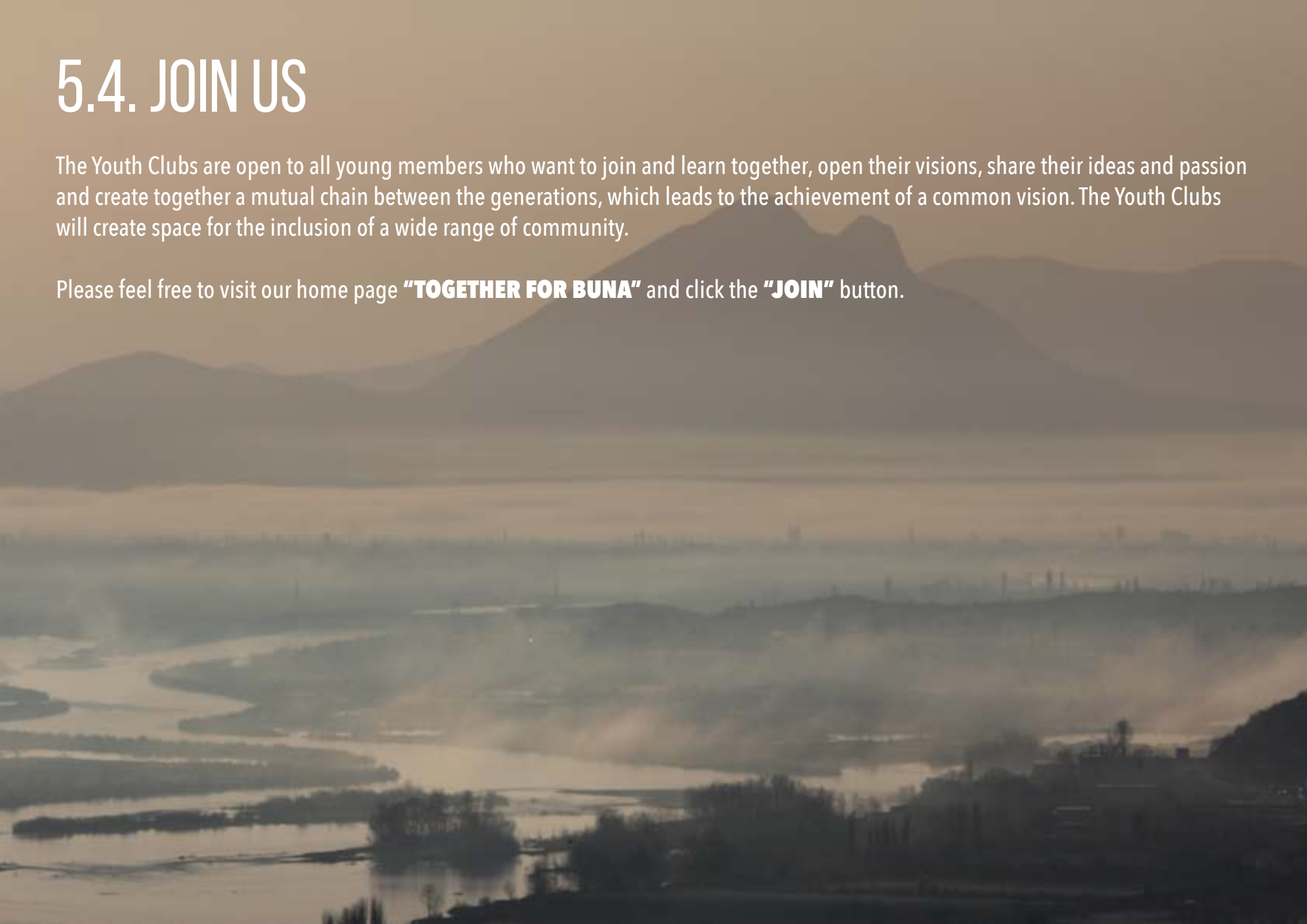
the mentor of the Youth Club in Albania

For me, being a biologist, it is my duty to share knowledge with youth about nature protection and involve them in nature environmental activities. My wish is to inform them and to change their behaviour to nature. The more you learn about nature, the more you protect it. When we talk about nature it means everything related to it: biodiversity, water resources, habitats, ecosystems, threats, challenges faced by humanity.

5.4. JOIN US

The Youth Clubs are open to all young members who want to join and learn together, open their visions, share their ideas and passion and create together a mutual chain between the generations, which leads to the achievement of a common vision. The Youth Clubs will create space for the inclusion of a wide range of community.

Please feel free to visit our home page **"TOGETHER FOR BUNA"** and click the **"JOIN"** button.



Under the project: Youth empowerment for Man and Biosphere reserve,
Bojana/Buna delta, Ulcinj municipality in Montenegro and Shkodra municipality in Albania

Implemented by: NGO Environment programme – EnvPro,
with partner: Environmental Center for Development Education and Networking - EDEN Center
in cooperation with: Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development

Funded by: UNESCO Participation Programme 2020-2021

with the support of: National Commission for UNESCO in Montenegro, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport

About the project: The main objective of the project is to create demand and capacities for UNESCO transboundary MAB BR designation in Bojana/Buna River Basin, as future extension to the Lake Skadar/Shkodra protected area. The area is recognized by scientific international, nature protection organizations, experts, governmental and non-governmental national and local organizations as a valuable biodiversity, a hotspot that requires efficient management. The specific objective of this project is to create an environment for active involvement of local youth stakeholders in the “new age” TB MAB BR concept of sustainable development practices in Bojana/Buna delta area.



Programme of
Participation in the
activities of Member
States for 2020-2021

