

Abstract



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Organisation:

City of Zagreb Office for Strategic Planning and Development

Short description of the City of Zagreb:

The capital city and the cultural, scientific, economic, financial and administrative centre of the Republic of Croatia. Having a special status, it runs the self-governing public functions of both the city and the county. It is situated in the northwest region of the country, along the Sava river, at the southern slopes of the Mt. Medvednica Nature Park. Its population is 790,000 (2008) living within the city boundaries, 90% in city proper (18% of Croatia's total population). A favourable geographic position in the southwest part of the Pannonian basin, which extends to the Alpine, Dinaric, Adriatic and Pannonian regions, provides an excellent connection for traffic between Central Europe and the Adriatic Sea. It has a leading economic position in Croatia due to the transport connections, concentration of industry, scientific and research institutions, industrial and craftsman tradition.

Presentation title: Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) – planning and action in Zagreb

Executive Summary of your Abstract:

The presentation gives the short overview of the activities on the biodiversity issues in the City of Zagreb, stressing the biodiversity status (recent studies, legislation, management, etc), the importance of international projects – ECNC, Countdown2010, LAB, and focuses on public participation issues.

Abstract:

The City of Zagreb administration has the privilege but also the responsibility to govern and manage an area of 640 km² with 790,000 inhabitants. Approximately one third of the territory is occupied by the city of Zagreb and 69 smaller urban, suburban and rural settlements; one third is agricultural land; and one third is under forest. Thirty four protected areas have been designated (15% of City's area) according to the Croatian Nature Protection Act. In addition there are also several areas protected as part of the Croatian ecological network. But it is recognised in Zagreb that setting aside protected areas is not all that is required in conservation, and that not only "natural" and protected areas are those that matter but the whole City. One very important focus area is public participation – both in order to inform and provide opportunities to the public, and to obtain their input into decision-making processes.

Informing the wider public and targeted groups is conducted on an event basis, rather than within a structured framework. This is done through various nature conservation projects or celebration of events, as well as the promotion of new publications, periodical organization of topical round tables, press conferences, etc. The public has access to web sites of the Ministry of Culture, State Institute for Nature Conservation and other relevant institutions responsible for the pursuit of above mentioned activities. The public is informed also by numerous non-governmental organizations, both professional and non-professional, as well as by enthusiastic individuals. They use different methods to approach the public like

workshops, leaflets, publications, posters, websites, etc. With regards to mainstream media coverage, nature conservation is challenged because of other items that grab the public's attention.

These approaches mark the beginnings of Zagreb's bid to create public support for biodiversity – a critically important investment in the City's future.

Very important role in emphasising the biodiversity importance particularly in urban setting, is the need for political support and public participation, recognition, protection and management. The City of Zagreb authorities have joined international projects: ECNC & ICLEI's "Community Involvement in Biodiversity Assessment", and particularly ICLEI and IUCN's "Local Action for Biodiversity project" (LAB), but also the Countdown2010 network.

Resumé:

M.Sc. in Geography, City planner for most of the carrier, coordinator of ECNC and LAB projects, current position advisor to the head of the office.

Recommended reading:

LAB - City of Zagreb Biodiversity Report, City Office for Strategic Planning and Development, Bureau for Physical Planning of the City of Zagreb and others, Zagreb 2008, <http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=10471>;

Zagreb, Croatia, Management and Conservation through Public Education, Local Action for Biodiversity, A series of local cases, ICLEI and UNEP, 2008; downloadable from www.iclei.org/biodiv-bonn2008 and

<http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=city-cases>;

www.iclei.org/lab;

www.Zagrebonline;

Biological and Landscape Diversity of Croatia with the Protection Strategy and Actions Plans, Republic of Croatia, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning, Zagreb 2000;

Biodiversity of Croatia, State Institute for Nature Protection, Ministry of Culture – Republic of Croatia, Zagreb 2006;

The Emerald Network in Croatia – Phase II, State Institute for Nature Protection, Zagreb 2006;

State Directorate for Nature Protection http://www.dzpz.hr/eng_title.htm;

Ministry of Culture, Directorate for Nature Protection <http://www.min-kulture.hr>