

The natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River Basin

Transboundary sub – basin

Skadar Lake

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Living well in harmony
with the Drin

The extended Drin River Basin represents important freshwater ecosystem and natural habitat for different species.

The **aim** of this presentation is to highlight the natural wealth of Basin.

It extends through: FYR of Macedonia, Albania, Greece, Kosovo and Montenegro.

It is divided into transboundary sub – basins: **lakes Lesser & Great Prespa**, Lake Ohrid, Lake Shkoder/Skadar, The Drin River, including the **Black and the White Drin**, the **Buna/Bojana river**



- Basin is **endangered** because confronts with different problems: marine waste, illegal hunting & fishing, uncontrolled logging, unsustainable use of water resources, tourism etc.
- We notice that the **main factor** which disturbs natural balance is HUMAN!



- **It is necessary to raise public awareness, emphasize the problems about preservation and protection of important plant species, draw attention to damage that is caused by ourselves, because with these activities we indirectly endanger our own health!**

Skadar Lake

- The largest lake at the Balkan Peninsula & the largest freshwater lake in Balkan; 2/3 is in Montenegro (221.8 km²), the rest lies in Albania (147.9 km²)
- Flows away into Adriatic sea by Bojana river and it is connected with Ohrid lake by Drin River.
- **National Park “Skadar Lake”** is protected by UNESCO (Proclaimed National Park in 1983)
- It was added to the World’s List Of Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention (in 1995)
- cryptodepression – its surface is above and its bottom is under the sea level





Skadar La
more th

Also there are
nd plants.

Abounds
W

rophytes
(s)

Petteria ramentacea - zanovijet

Edraianthus tenuifolius - uskolsni zvončić

Crocus tommasinianus - Tomazinijev kačun

Emersal species (*Phragmites communis*, *Typha latifolia*)

Also, floodplain woodlands, degradation stages of underbrush, rockeries



Specific endemic and protected species – *Quercus robur*, *Petteria ramentacea*, *Ramonda serbica*, *Tamacetum cinerarifolium*, *Fritillaria gracilis*, *Crocus tommasianus*, *Trapa natans*

5 special nature reserves:

Manastirska tapija, Pančevo oko, Crni žar, Grmožur i Omerova gorica



Trapa natans subsp. *scutariensis*

Also known as water chestnut is protected plant species

It is on the IPA list of Montenegro, according to norm II

Floating plant species, with undivided floating leaves in a rosette and submerged stem

Fruit is eatable, with a lot of starch, very unusual look (“sea devil”)





- *Ramonda serbica* – endemic, relict and protected species
- Natural habitat: rockeries where prevails defficiency of water; avoids places with direct sunlight – **skiophyte**
- Poikilohydric flowering plant (can restore its function after drought)

Fritillaria gracilis



The attraction of *F*
the foliage is usual
perennial plant with
at the base of stem

Flower is solitary on short stem,
outside purple and cubical (like chessboard),
inside yellow

Also endemic plant species of Skadar Lake



Quercus robur ssp. scutariensis

Known as a penduculate oak is a flowering plant species
Latin **Quercus** – “oak” + **robur** – “strength, hardiness”
It is a long-lived tree, with a large wide spreading crown
Its leaves are healing, used in medical purpose, like a ointment
(for example for sugar disease)

There is a belief that this tree is a happy tree-
in its crown sometimes gather

“fairies”





Urticularia vulgaris

The **only carnivorous** plant in this area

The main reason why they have this way of nutrition is because of the lack of nutrients in the substrate

During August its flowers are above the water surface

It has leaves with numerous follicles specialized for catching small invertebrates (**insects, water bugs & mosquito larvae**)

Save my natural habitat, please?! 😊

