

The natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River Basin: inspiring our collective actions



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CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND

ACT 4
DRIN

Living well in harmony
with the Drin

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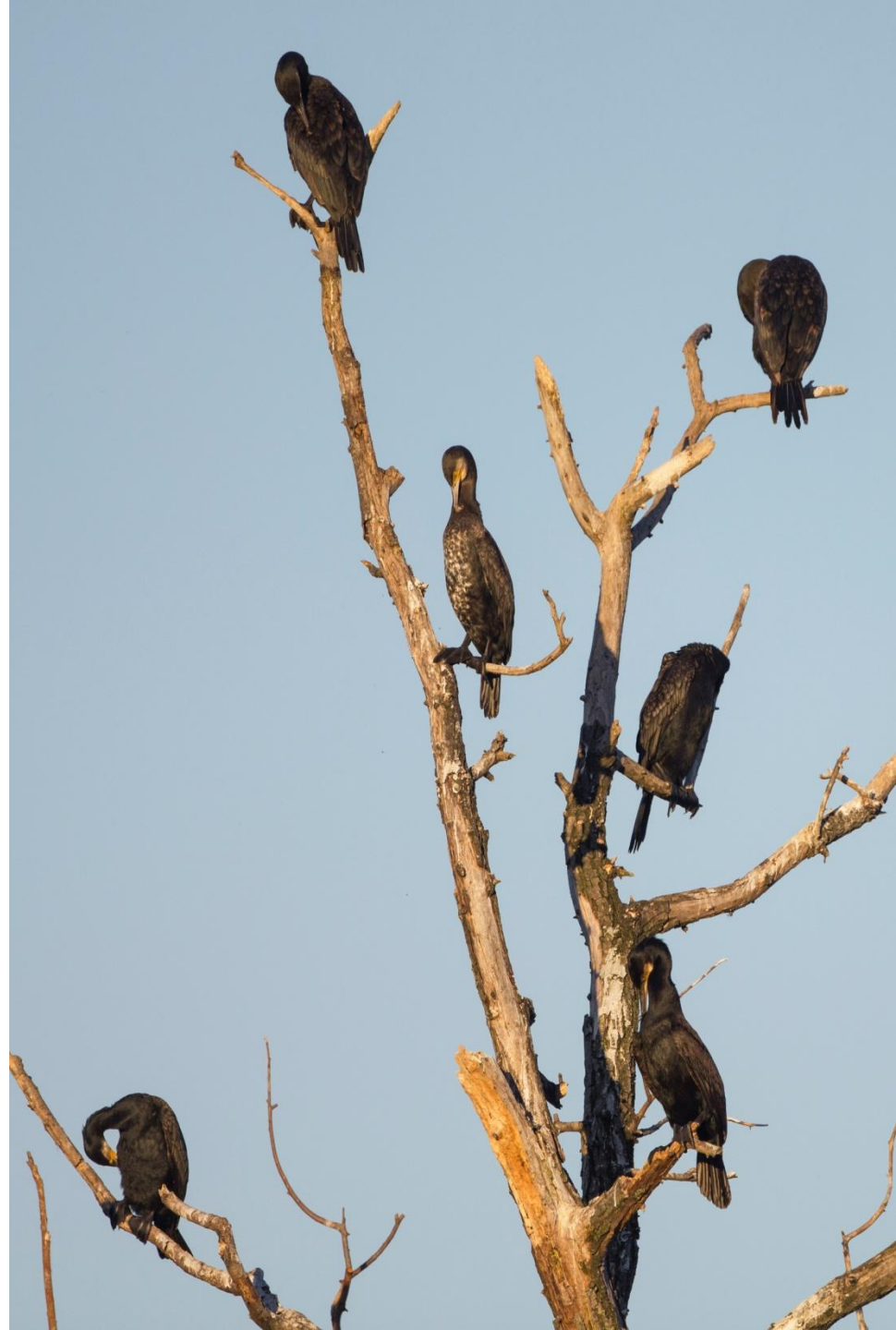
The Drin River Basin: the 'connecting' water body of the south-western Balkans

- ✓ It extends through 5 Riparian countries
- ✓ It extends over an area of 19.000km²
- ✓ It is an interconnected water system



The intrinsic value of the Drin River Basin

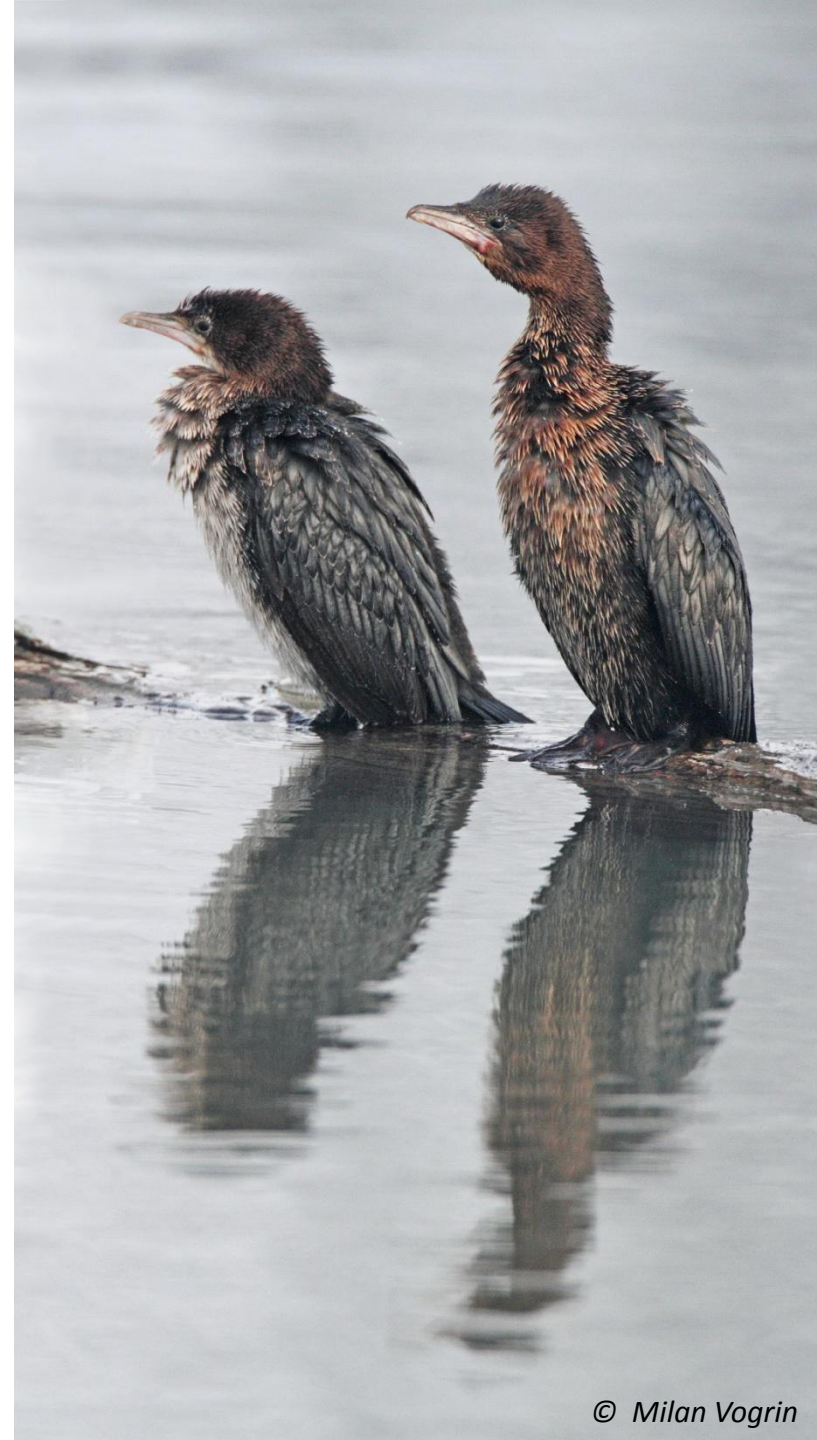
- ✓ It is a **biodiversity hotspot**
- ✓ It **hosts endemic species** (e.g. *Salmo letnica*) or **species that breed here in exceptional high numbers** (e.g. *Pelecanus Crispus*)



The Drin River Basin: what is worth

- Water supply
- Agriculture & farming
- Fishing
- Recreation & tourism
- Power generation
- Navigation

*Ultimately interwoven with our
harmonious existence & welfare*



The Drin River Basin water bodies

***Lake Ohrid**, one of the most ancient lakes in the world*



***Lake Shkoder/Skadar**, the largest lake of the Balkans*



***Great Prespa & Lesser Prespa**, a haven for wildlife*



***The Black & the White Drin**, hosting a great variety of flora & fauna*

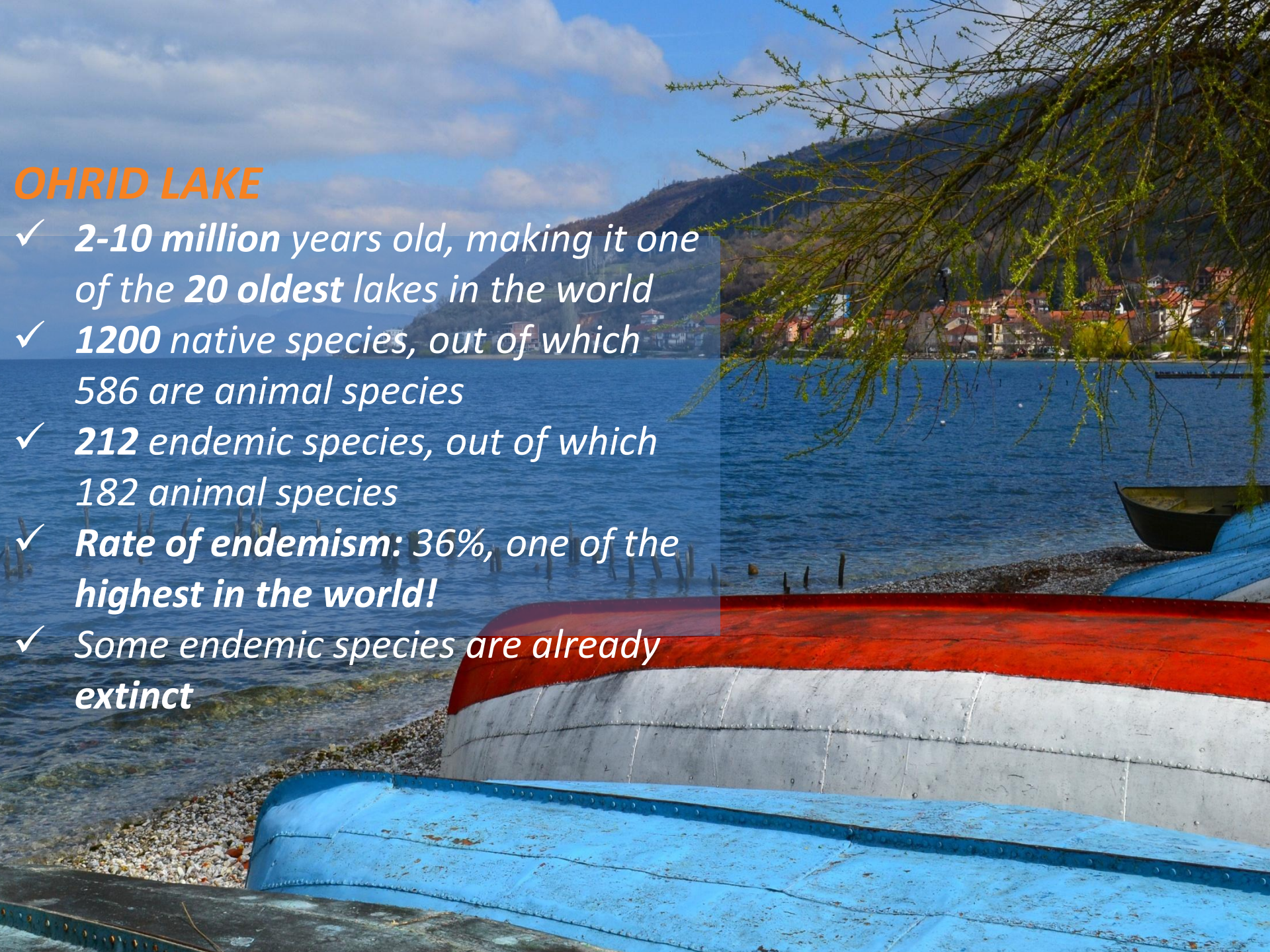


***Buna/Bojana river**, a mosaic of biologically rich habitats*



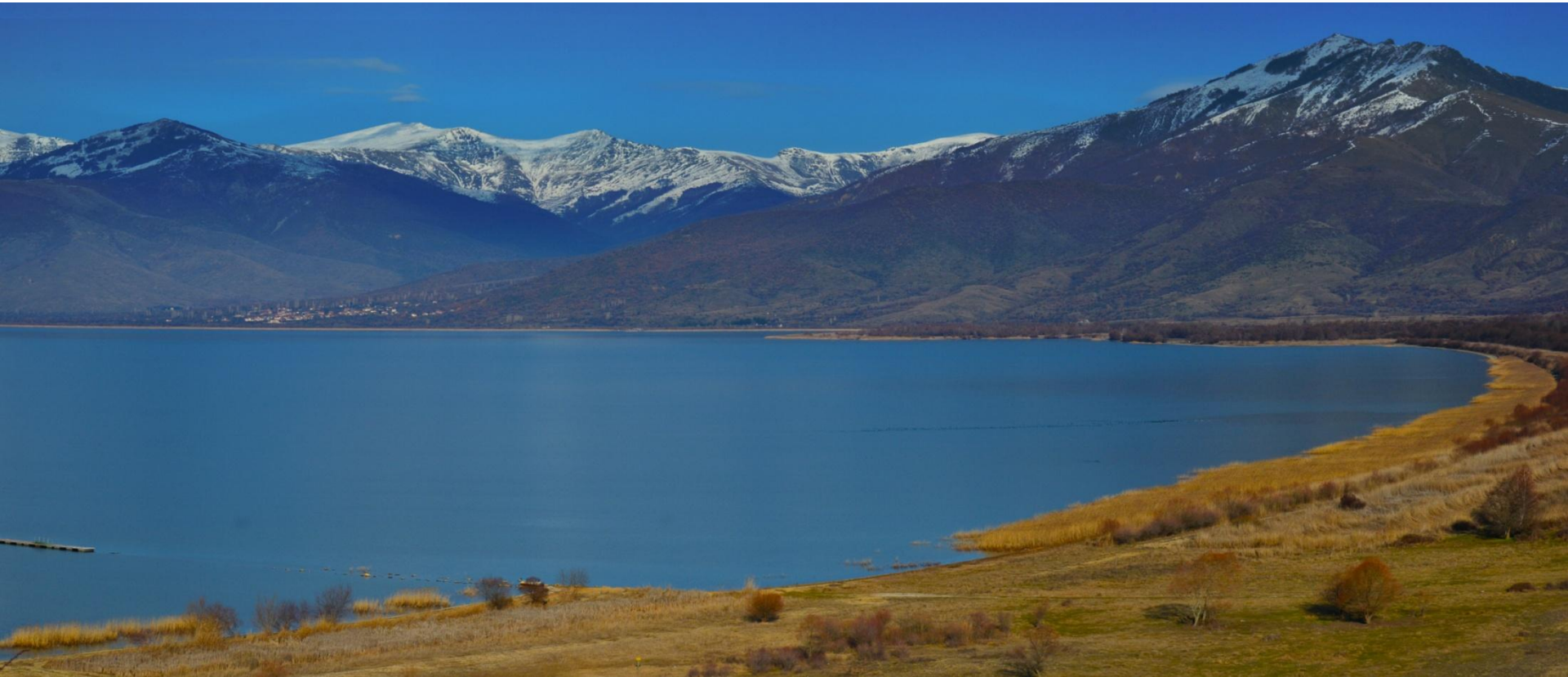
OHRID LAKE

- ✓ **2-10 million** years old, making it one of the **20 oldest** lakes in the world
- ✓ **1200** native species, out of which 586 are animal species
- ✓ **212** endemic species, out of which 182 animal species
- ✓ **Rate of endemism: 36%**, one of the **highest in the world!**
- ✓ Some endemic species are already **extinct**



Juniper woods in lake Prespa and so much more...

- ✓ **1500** plant species
- ✓ **270** bird species
- ✓ **23** fish species, out of which **9** are endemic
- ✓ **13** amphibian and **21** reptile species
- ✓ **172** butterfly species



SHKODER/SKADAR LAKE

- ✓ *The largest lake in the Balkans (540 km² in winter time)*
- ✓ *264 bird species*
- ✓ *49 fish species*
- ✓ *80 aquatic plant species*
- ✓ *It hosts some 40-50 pairs of Dalmatian Pelicans*





GOLEM GRAD ("SNAKE ISLAND")

- ✓ One of the **7 most famous snake islands** in the world
- ✓ On its 20 hectares we can find approximately:
- ✓ **400** Horned Vipers of endemic subspecies (that only live on this island)
- ✓ **10.000** Dice Snakes (non-venomous)
- ✓ **300** Greek Tortoises

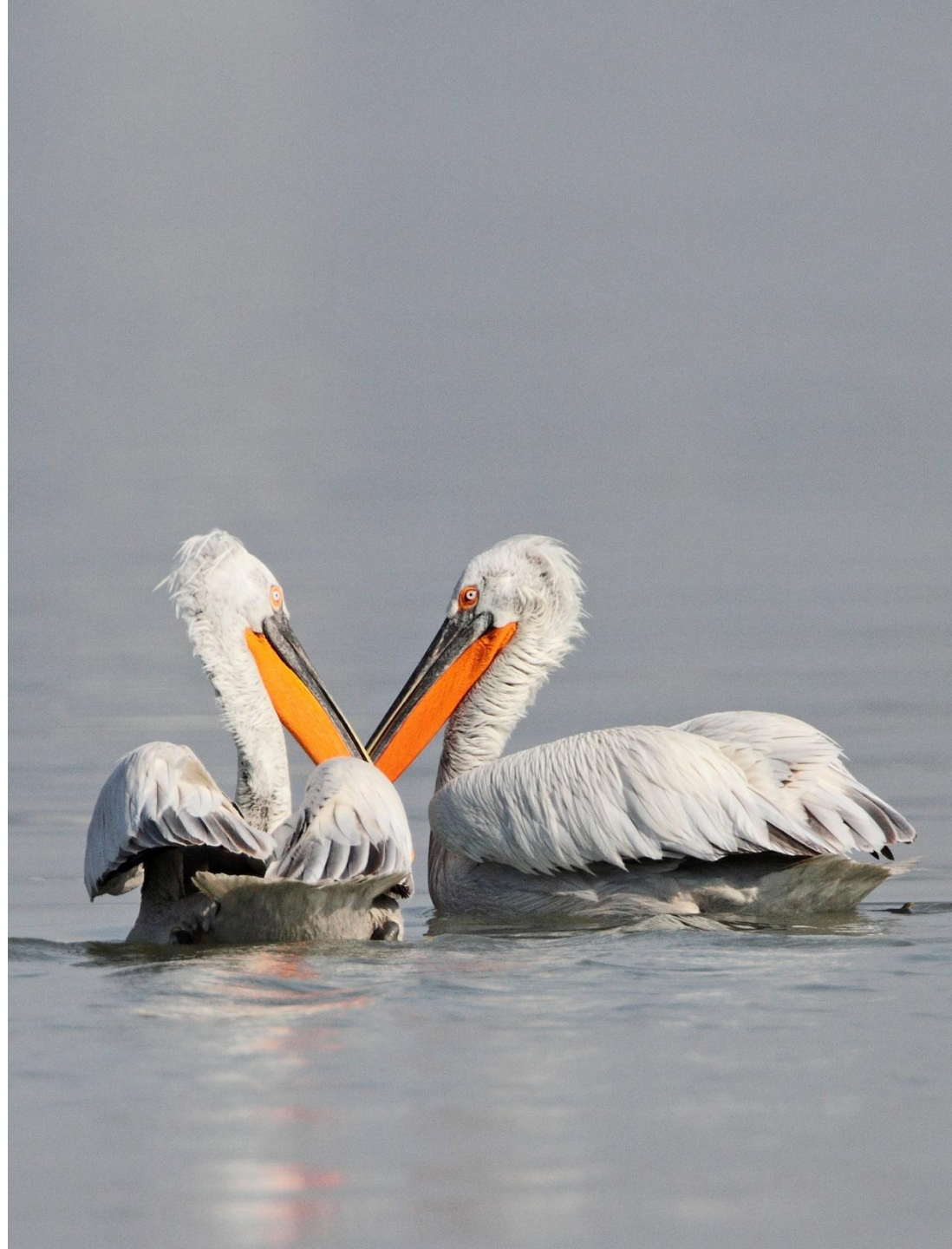
JABLANICA MOUNTAIN

- ✓ A reservoir of glacial water that feeds into the **Black Drin**
- ✓ **18** glacial lakes
- ✓ More than **20** glacial torrents
- ✓ Hosts a large number of **endemic flowers & large carnivores** such as the Balkan Lynx, Grey Wolf, Brown Bear
- ✓ **Conservation status:** National Park in Albania; not protected in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



The Dalmatian Pelican

- ✓ One of the **largest flying birds** in the world, with a 3.5m wingspan and up to 15kg in weight
- ✓ Classified as a **vulnerable** species
- ✓ **2** out of the **10 nesting sites in Europe** are in the **Drin River Basin**
- ✓ Approx. **1400 breeding pairs** are in Prespa, which is **¼ of the global population**



The European eel & the Ohrid trout

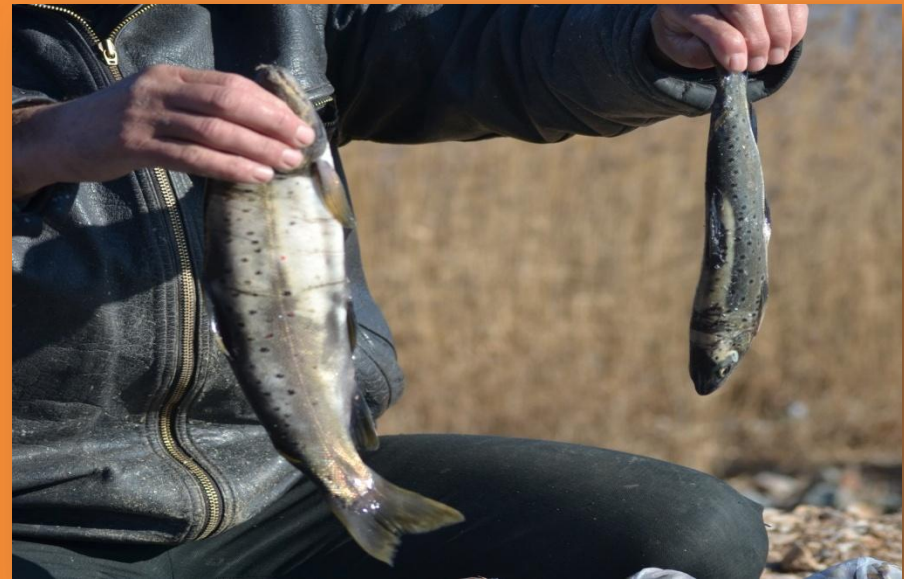
The European eel is a critically endangered species

Changes to water flows, largely due to dams and in the quantity and quality of water resources throughout the watershed, have caused severe damage to the fish passages



The Ohrid trout is a species of concern

An ancient one-of-a-kind fish, a 'living fossil', nowadays has become the focus of concern due to overfishing, habitat loss, pollution and the growing threat of invasive alien species introduction into the lake.



The Balkan lynx: a flagship species on the verge of extinction

- ✓ Classified as **Critically Endangered**
- ✓ Approx. **40** surviving individuals
- ✓ Possibly with only two reproduction areas:
Mavrovo National Park & Munella Mountain
- ✓ **Main threats:** direct persecution; decline of their prey populations; fragmentation, deterioration and loss of their habitats.





Thank you!



For more info:

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