



Natura MK

YEARLY  
REPORT  
2021

# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE ASSOCIATION IN 2021

## CONTENTS

<b>About the Association</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Implemented Projects and Activities</b>	<b>4</b>
Together against illegal activities in hard-to-reach terrains of protected areas	4
Preparation of a Management plan for the proposed new National Park in Northern Macedonia on the territory of Shar Mountain	4
Improving the management of protected areas in Northern Macedonia	5
Shara Talks	5
Consulting services for PONT strategic framework for the wider Ohrid area	6
<b>Financial Operations in 2021</b>	<b>7</b>
Balance of Income	7

## About the ASSOCIATION

Natura MK is a non-profit association of citizens, founded in 2018 by a group of enthusiasts which builds its experience initially through the individual experiences of its members. The organization is in close cooperation with local partner organizations, associations, foundations and institutions and is active at the local level, as well as at the national level in cooperation with relevant state institutions.

### Vison

To create a different world in which people live in harmony with nature.

### Mission

To advocate, implement and support solutions that will make people better connected to nature.

### Areas of Operation

- Strengthening the capacities for sustainable use and protection of natural resources;
- Conducting research, analysis and studies;
- Lobbying and advocacy;
- Promotion of rural development and alternative tourism;
- Promotion and advancement of ecology, sports and education;
- Encouraging philanthropy and volunteering.

### Organizational Structure

The organization currently has 14 members with diversified experience, 8 volunteers, one employee as project coordinator and when necessary, staff engaged in support in maintaining visibility and financial operations.

The Association is managed by the Assembly, the Supervisory Board and the President. The Assembly is the highest body of the association and performs activities that are in accordance with the Statute and the general acts of the organization. The President of the Association is Aleksandar Panajotov who legally represents the organization, while the Supervisory Board is composed of three members: Aleksandra Spasevska, Vasilka Manaskovska and Magdalena Stavrevska. The members of the Supervisory Board are accountable for their work before the Assembly of the association and at any time have the goals and interests of the association above the individual or special goals of any other party. Natura MK has one full-time employee who coordinates the implementation of current project activities with the support of several other people who are hired as needed.

# 2

## Implemented PROJECTS and ACTIVITIES

From its establishment in 2018 until the end of 2021, the organization has been demonstrating a positive development trend. Starting from volunteer engagements and a small implemented project in 2019, already in 2021, great progress is noticed in the implemented projects and activities from several aspects. The project activities are funded by diversified donors, the organization is becoming more recognized in the sector and is building its expertise through continuous cooperation with experts according to the program adopted in 2020.

### Results Achieved in 2021

#### ***Together against illegal activities in hard-to-reach terrains of protected areas***

In cooperation with the protected areas NP Galicica, NP Mavrovo and PA Vevchanski Izvori; Natura MK implemented the project "Together against illegal activities in the hard-to-reach terrains of the protected areas." within the grant scheme of the project "Protected Areas for Nature and People II 2019-2022" implemented by the World Wildlife Fund Adria - WWF Adria and funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency - SIDA. The project was implemented in the period from March to December 2021 and four results were achieved:

- Increased public awareness of the need to reduce illegal activities in the highlands in protected areas through social media, with informative posts and videos in order for the public to be more actively involved in the fight against illegal activities that harm the nature.
- Prepared report on the situation with the illegal activities that harm the nature in the high mountainous areas of the protected areas.
- Monitoring of protected areas through the application of new technologies with drone.
- Establish closer cooperation between local community volunteers and protected area managers.

#### ***Preparation of a Management plan for the proposed new National Park in Northern Macedonia on the territory of Shar Mountain***

In the period from April 2021 to October 2021, Natura MK was hired by the International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN, to provide support in the preparation of the management plan of the proposed new National Park in Northern Macedonia, on the territory of Shar Mountain.

The following activities were carried out:

- Finalizing the methodology for developing a management plan for the proposed protected area;
- Contribution to the preparation of parts of the draft management plan;
- Liaison with local authorities and local stakeholders;
- Contribution to the preparation of programs within the management plan;

# 2

## Implemented PROJECTS and ACTIVITIES

- Provided communication support between the project team and local stakeholders;
- Provided logistical support for the realization of project activities and the expert team;
- Organizing and facilitating stakeholder consultation workshops.

All tasks were carried out in cooperation with IUCN, the key expert and in direct communication with all stakeholders at all levels in the Sharr Mountain region.

In the direction of good local resource management, this initiative aimed to contribute to the establishment of cooperation between local stakeholders and the future management of the national park. The activity was implemented within the project “Achieving Biodiversity Conservation through Creation and Effective Management of Protected Areas and Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Land Use Planning”. The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented through the UN Environment Program (UNEP), the main partner and beneficiary is the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP), while a partner in the implementation of this project activity are IUCN and Natura MK.

### ***Improving the management of protected areas in Northern Macedonia***

Natura MK implemented two activities in the period from April 2021 to June 2021 which contributed to the improvement of the management of protected areas in the country:

- Training program for rangers in protected areas in Northern Macedonia;
- Information campaign aimed at the local population living on Shar Mountain.

The activities were organized within the project “Achieving Biodiversity Conservation through Creation and Effective Management of Protected Areas and Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Land Use Planning”, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented through the UN Environment Program (UNEP), and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP) as the main partner and beneficiary.

### ***Shara Talks***

Improving the information of the local population and raising public awareness about the Sharr Mountain National Park.

Within the 2021 environmental investment program of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Natura MK implemented the project “Shara Talking” in the period from 25.05.2021 to 25.10.2021. The main goal of the project was to improve the information of the local population and to raise public awareness about the benefits and permitted / prohibited activities, as well as their involvement in the protection of the Sharr Mountain National Park. The awareness of the local population was

# 2

## Implemented PROJECTS and ACTIVITIES

achieved through the following two results:

1. Prepared set of information tools that will convey the benefits and possible limitations of the future national park;
2. Promoted materials and raised awareness among the local population.

The project results were aimed at the local population from mountain villages along the entire territory of Shar Planina with a focus on cattle breeders, forest owners, meadows, agricultural land and collectors of other forest products and tourism service providers.

### ***Consulting services for PONT strategic framework for the wider Ohrid area***

In the period September 2021, consultations were conducted with all stakeholders from the wider Ohrid area for the preparation of the strategic framework of PONT. Stakeholders were informed about the possibilities of applying for PONT funded projects.

### **Additional Activities**

Networking with other organizations, advocacy of the Association of events and preparation of project applications.

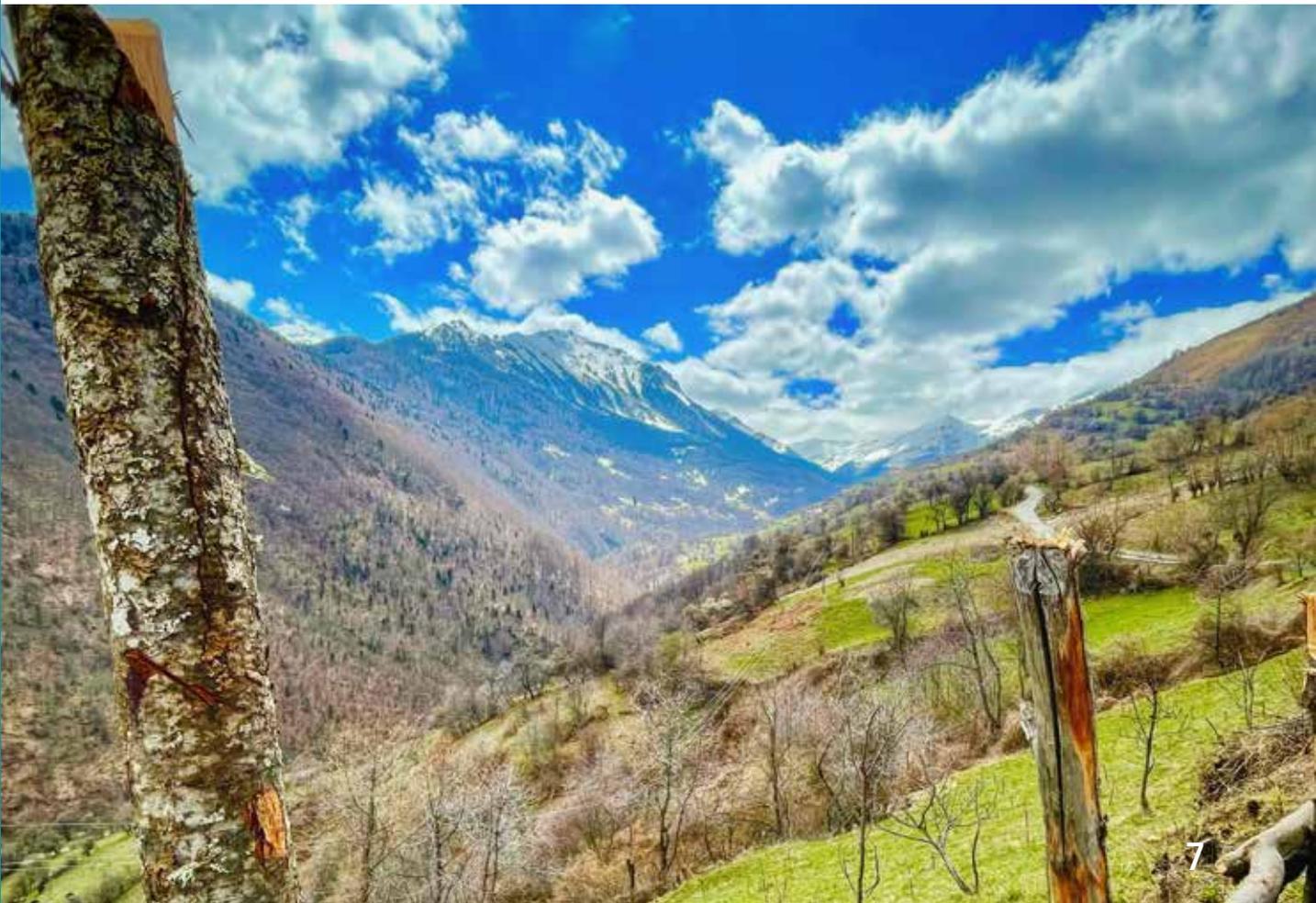
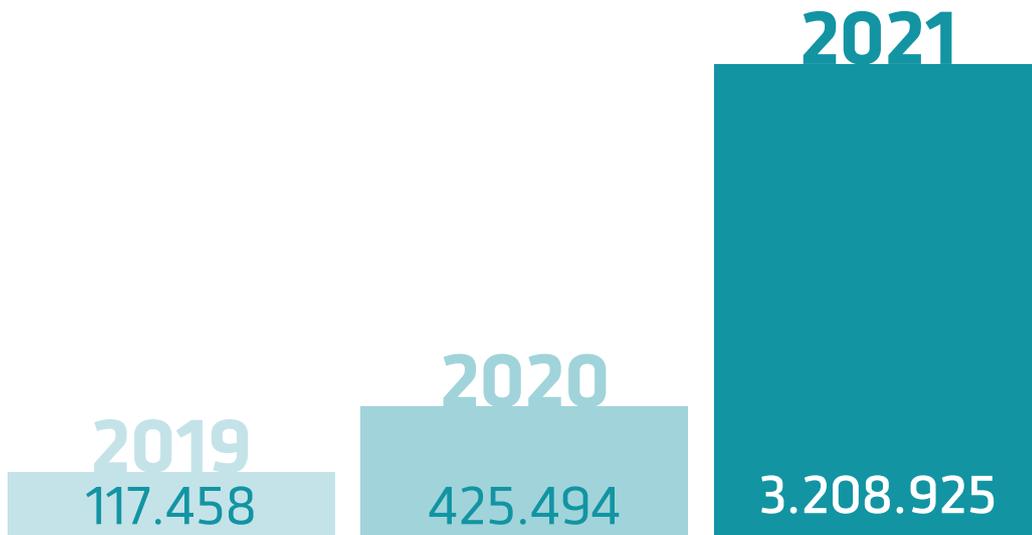
# 3

## FINANCIAL OPERATIONS in 2021

The main source of income in 2020 to achieve the goals of the Association are donations and consulting services. It is important to note the increased diversification of donors in 2021, namely IUCN, PONT, WWF and UNEP. The total revenue in 2021 is realized in order to implement several projects and project activities and amounts to 3,208,925 MKD.

### Balance of Income

Amounts in MKD





# Natura MK

Civil Society Organization for advocacy, implementation and support of solutions with which people will be better connected with nature **NATURA MK** Skopje

## **Address**

Blvd. Vidoe Smilevski Bato no. 39/26  
1000 Skopje, R N Macedonia

## **Contact**

T: +389 75 341 131  
@: [contact@naturamk.org](mailto:contact@naturamk.org)

[www.naturamk.org](http://www.naturamk.org)