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Key findings of UNEP feasibility study on the proposed transboundary protected area "Durmitor-Tara Canyon - Sutjeska"

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with funding from

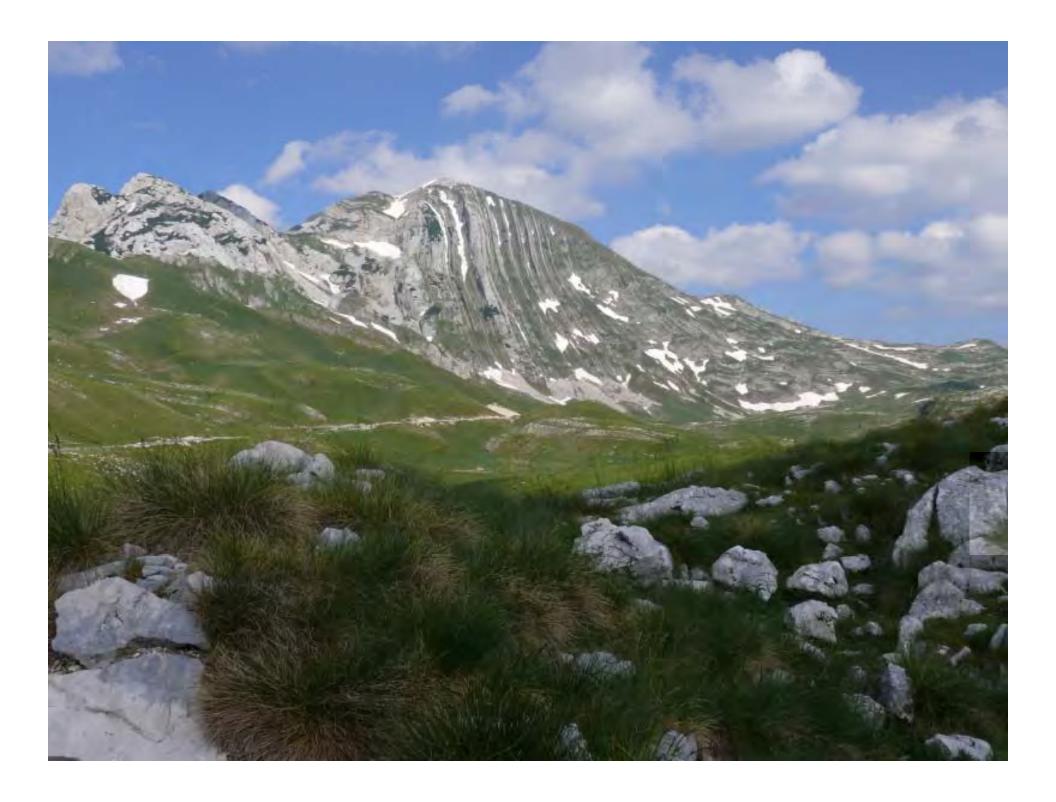
Austrian





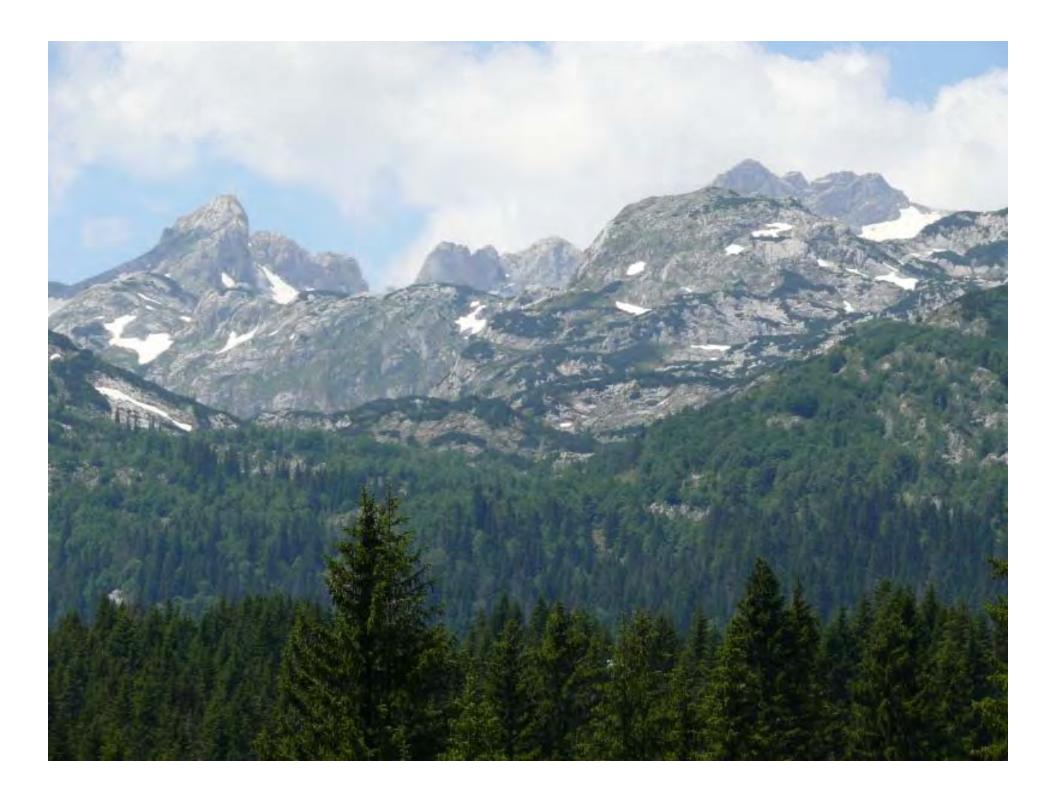
One of the proposed priority TBPAs

- identified by ENVSEC
- in June 2006
- is "Durmitor Tara Canyon Sutjeska".



Durmitor National Park

- established in 1952,
- with the area of 33'895 ha
- is the largest terrestrial protected area in Montenegro
- encompassing part of the Durmitor plateau
- the Durmitor mountain range with the highest peak of Bobotov kuk (2522 m)
- and part of the Tara river canyon.



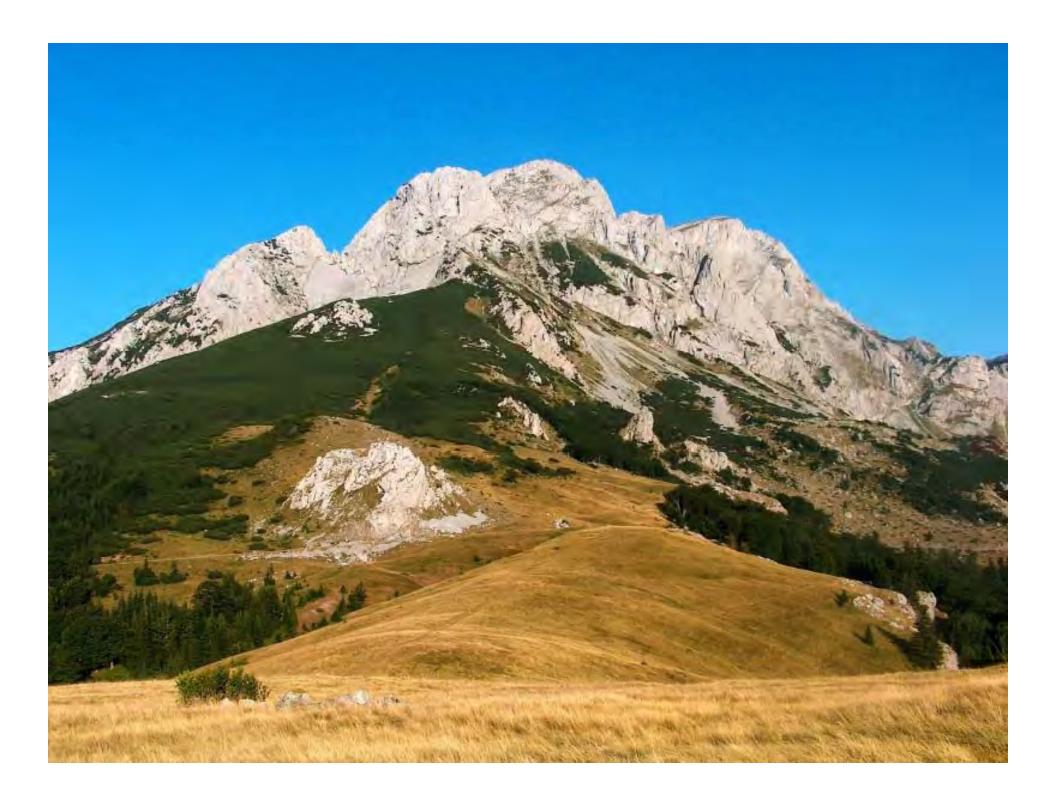
Durmitor NP is part of

- the UNESCO MaB "Tara River Basin Biosphere Reserve" (182'889 ha)
- designated in 1976.
- In 1980 Durmitor National Park
- and part of the Tara river canyon
- were inscribed on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites (WHS).



Sutjeska NP (17'250 ha)

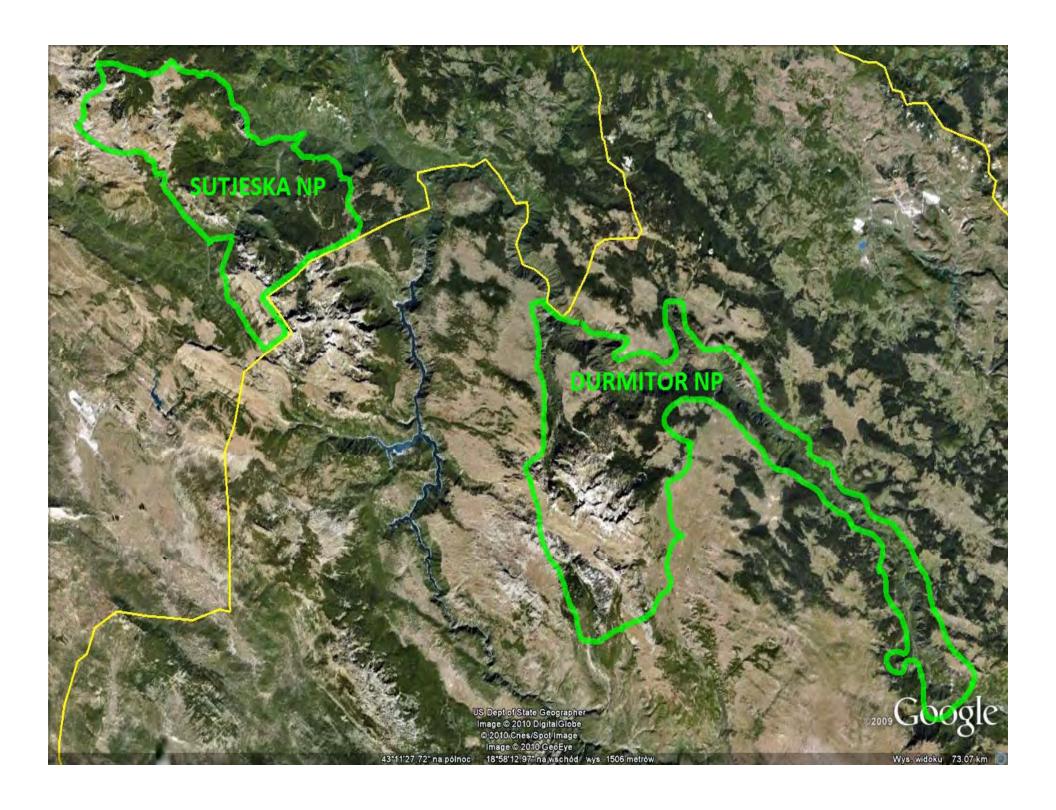
- established in 1962
- is the oldest national park in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- and the largest protected area of Republic of Srpska.
- Mt. Maglić (2386 m) on the state border with Montenegro
- is the highest mountain peak of Bosnia and Herzegovina.





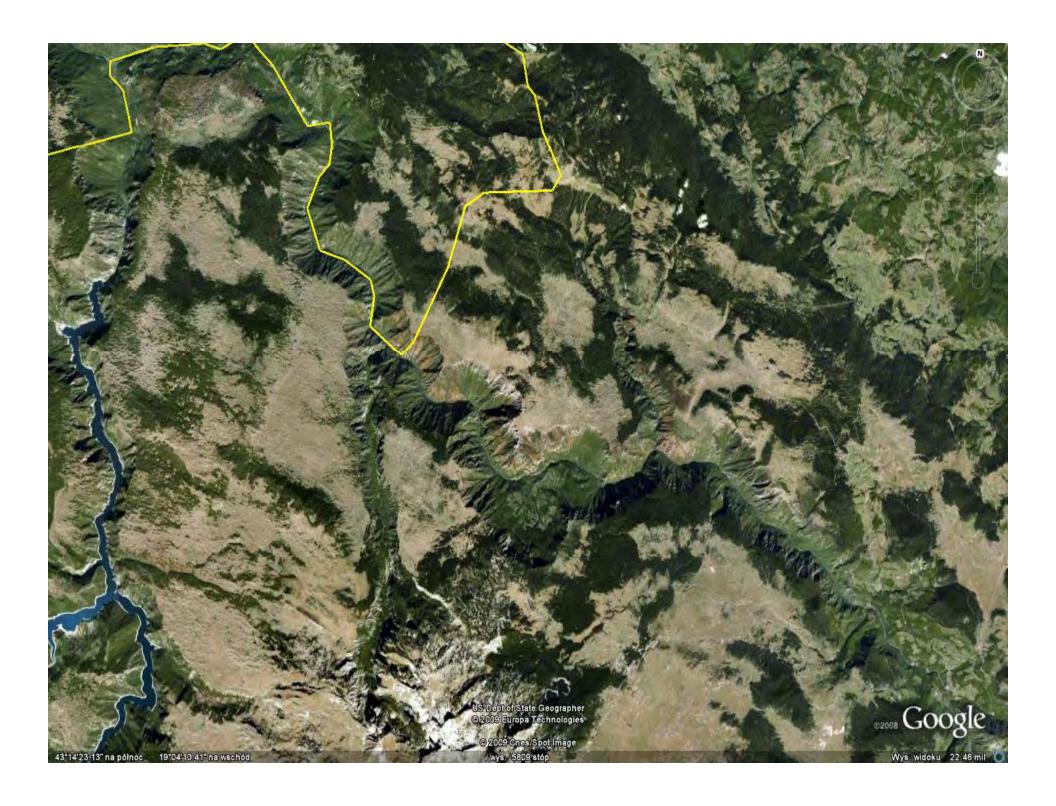
Durmitor and Sutjeska National Parks

- function as 'isolated islands'
- neither adjacent to each other
- nor connected to other protected areas.



Tara River Canyon 1'300 m deep and 80 kilometres long is

- a distinctive natural phenomenon of the region
- a key unifying element of the common regional identity
- a shared natural asset of special importance for the local economy
- and a potential transboundary ecological corridor of common importance for both parks.



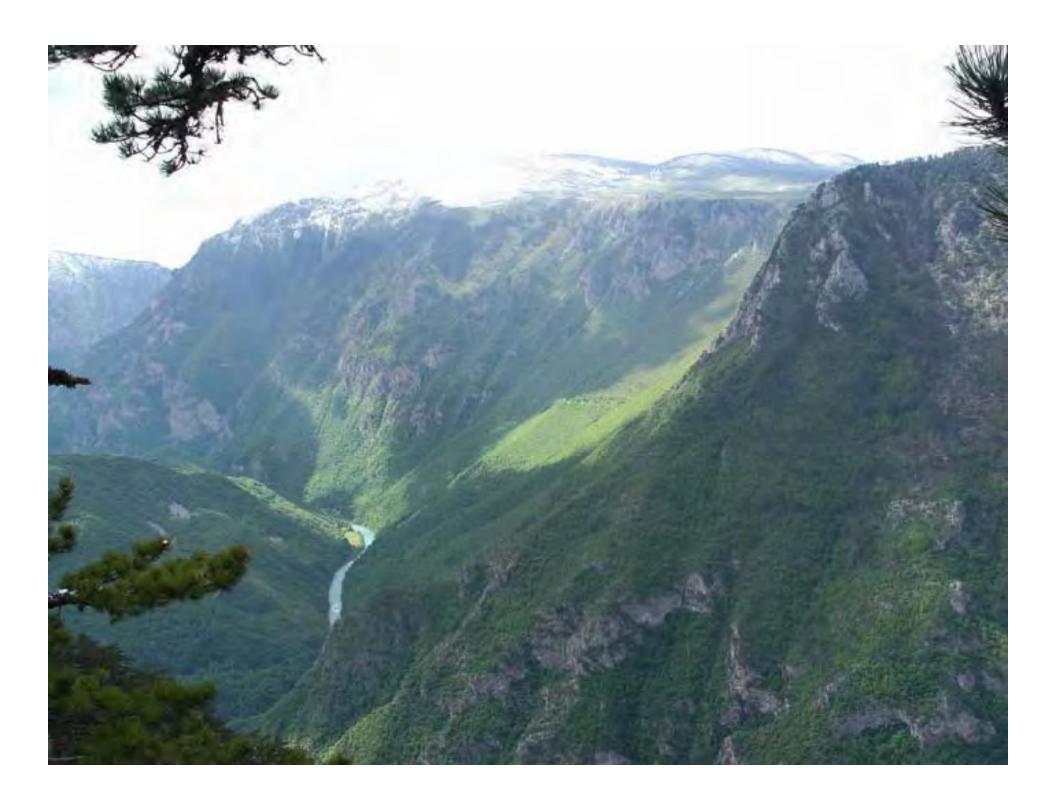
Inhabitants of local municipalities in both countries

- jointly campaigned against the hydropower project Buk Bijela
- which could threaten the environment of the Tara river canyon
- and destroy the values and integrity of the World Heritage Site.



The importance of the Tara River Canyon

- is well defined in the "Declaration on the protection of the river Tara"
- adopted by the Parliament of Montenegro:
- "As citizens, we are aware that the Tara
- is our future and our trademark".



Currently the lower section of the canyon

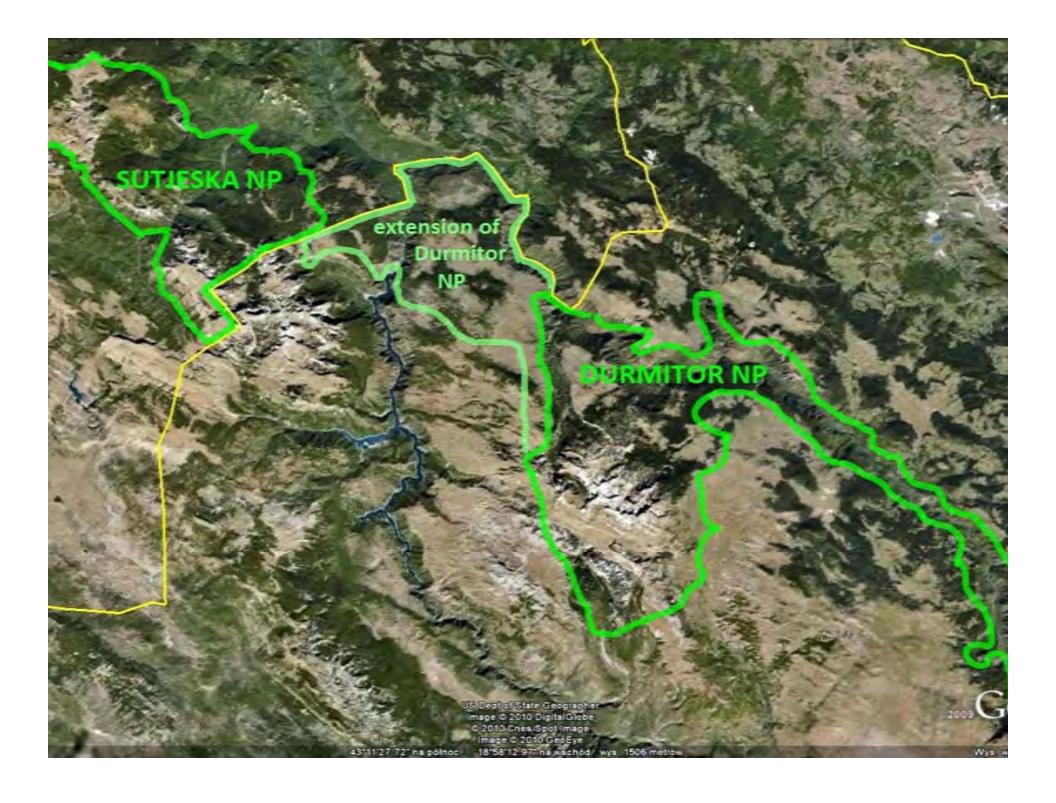
- remaining outside national parks
- is exposed to growing environmental threats
- due to sewage treatment and solid waste management problems
- resulting from the rapidly growing visitation
- and illegal development pressure.

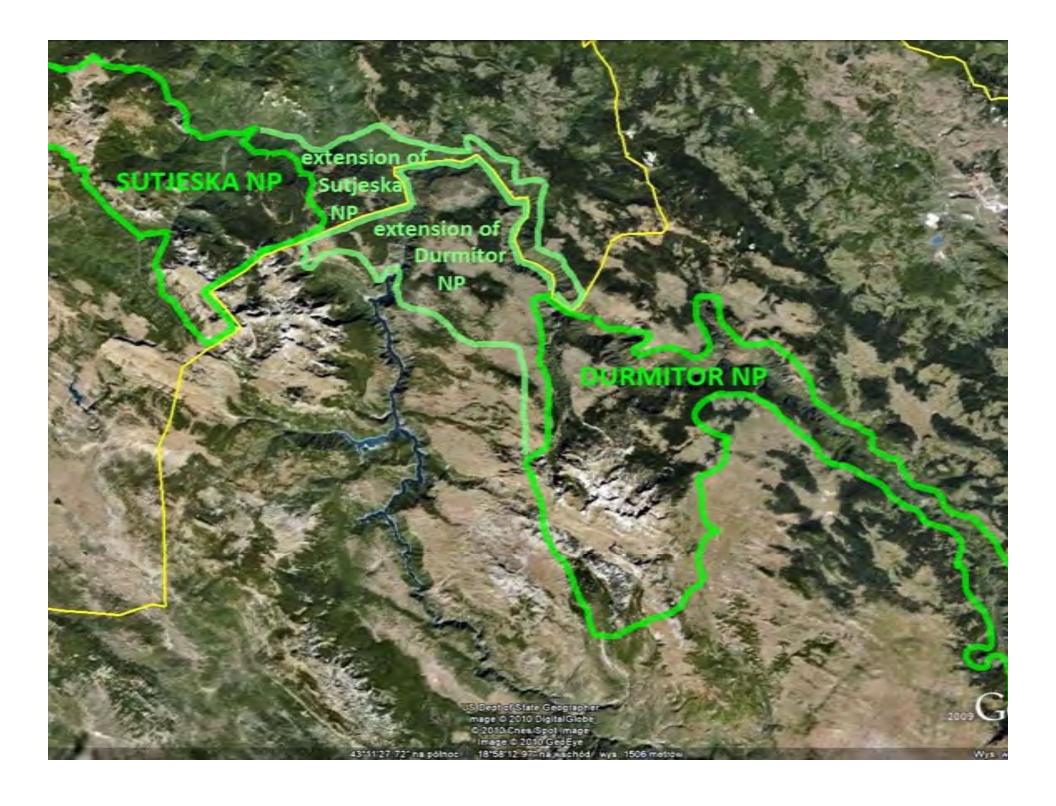
During CBD COP9 in May 2008

- the Government of Montenegro committed itself to examine possibilities for establishment of this TBPA
- while the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina committed itself
- to support the enlargement of Sutjeska NP
- and examine possibilities for its transboundary cooperation with Durmitor NP.

According to the Spatial Plans of both neighbouring countries

- Durmitor and Sutjeska National Parks shall be extended towards the state border in the Tara river canyon
- with the objective to prevent further degradation of environment in the canyon
- designated as the World Heritage Site
- and establish a transboundary ecological corridor linking both national parks.



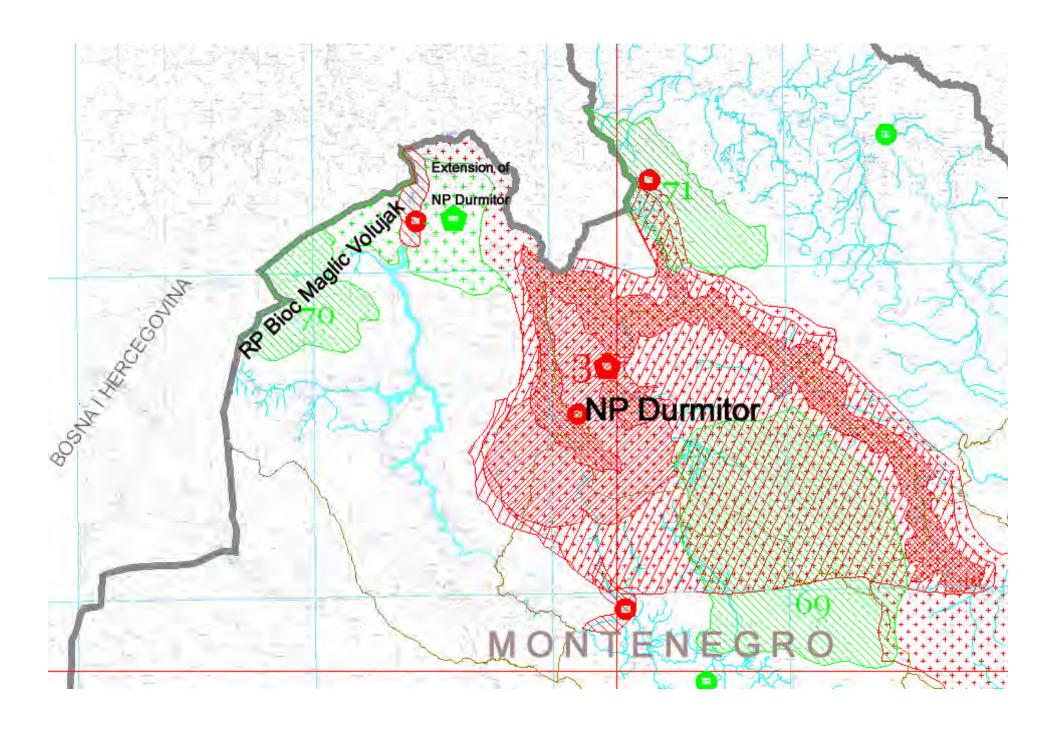


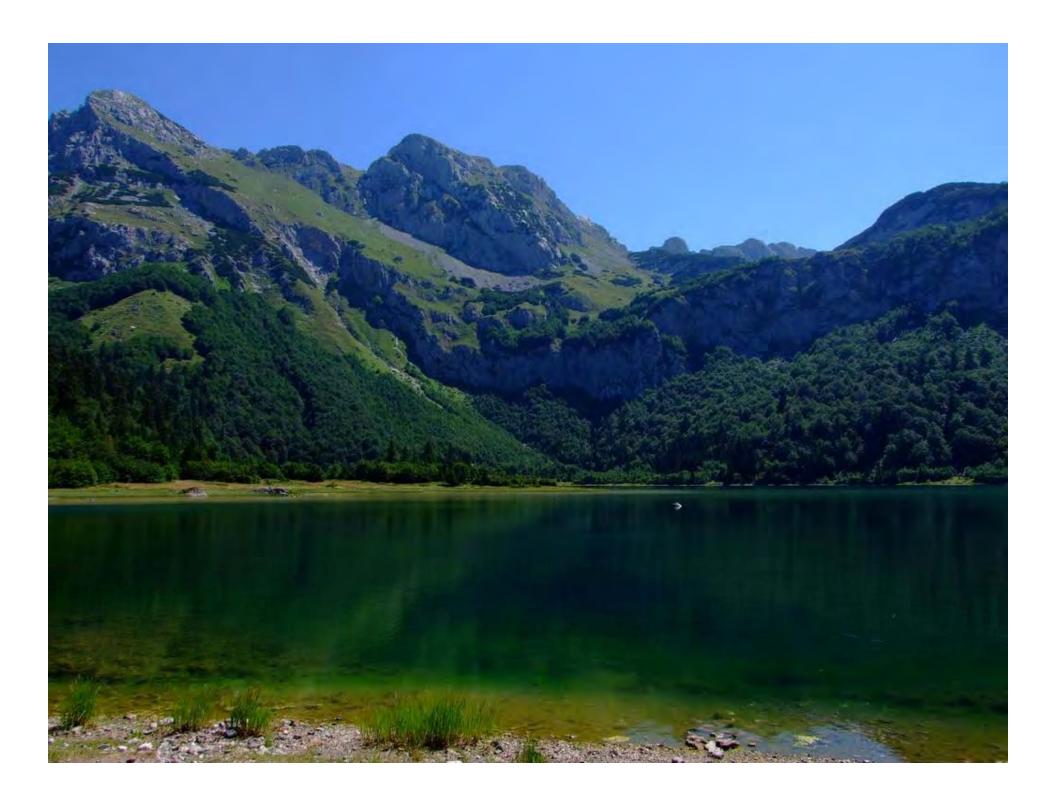
Extension of Sutjeska and Durmitor NPs

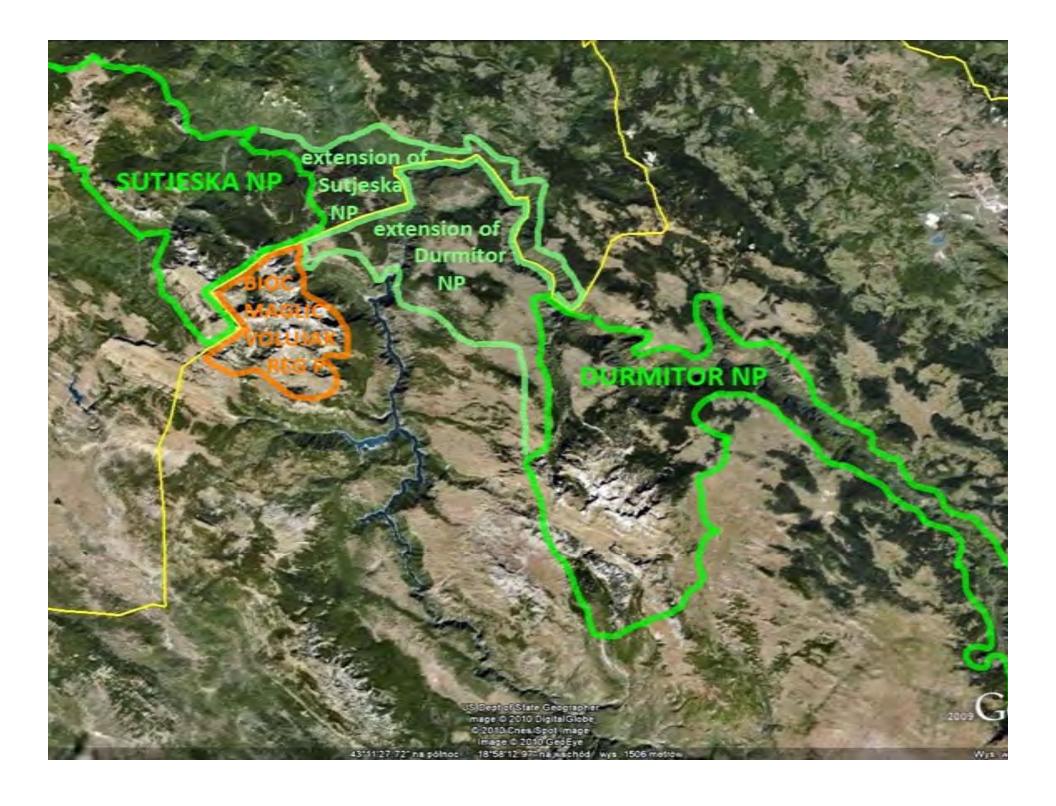
- towards the state border in the Tara river canyon
- is a prerequisite for establishing the TBPA
- and transboundary cooperation between both involved countries, their municipalities and protected areas
- on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of this shared region.

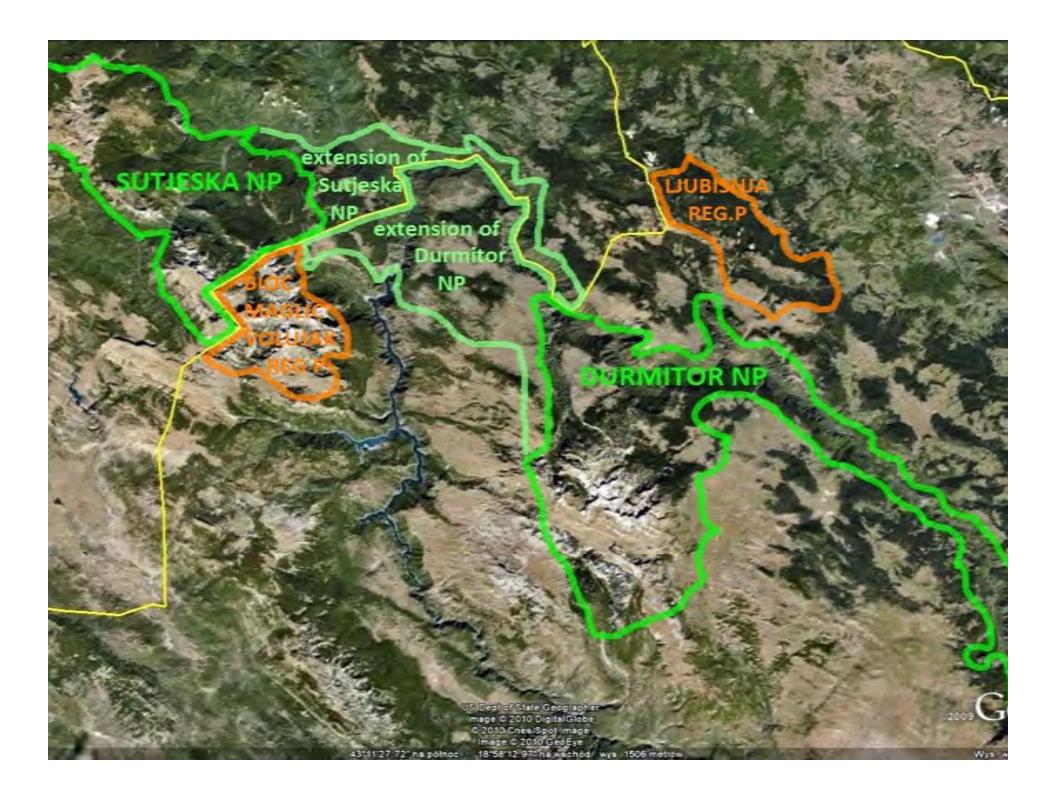
The Spatial Plan of Montenegro provides for the designation of three Regional Parks in this border region:

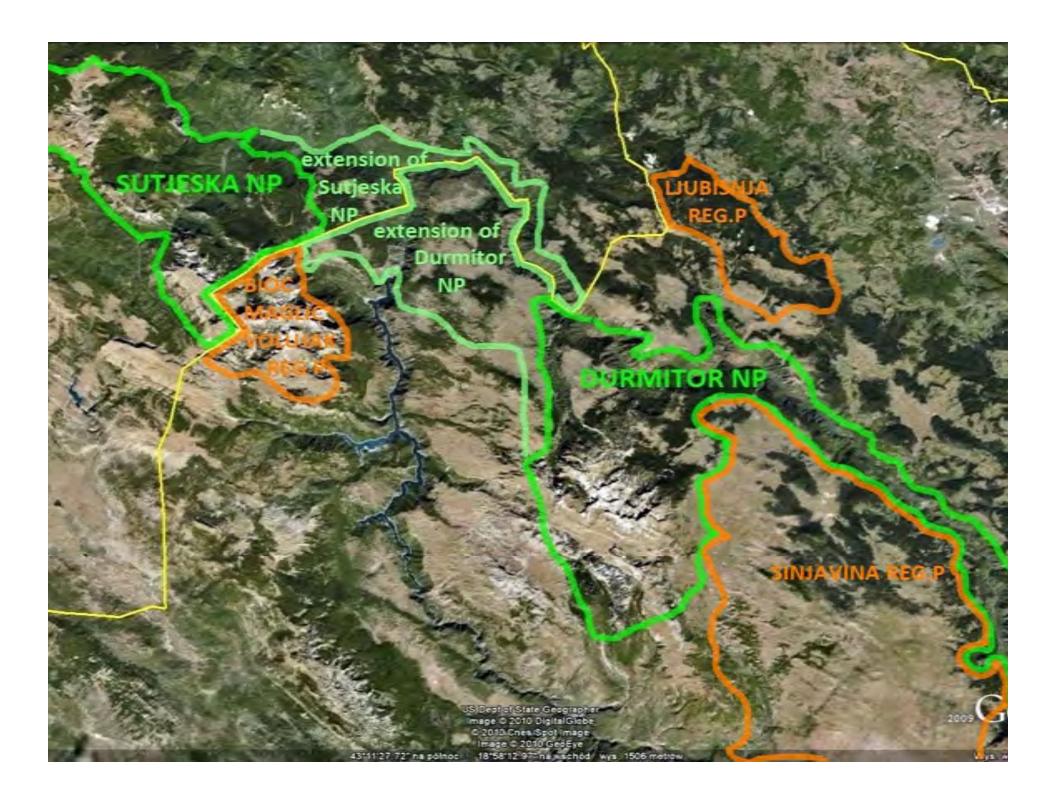
- Bioč-Maglić-Volujak (7'200 ha)
- Ljubišnja (7'800 ha)
- and Sinjavina (42'400 ha).









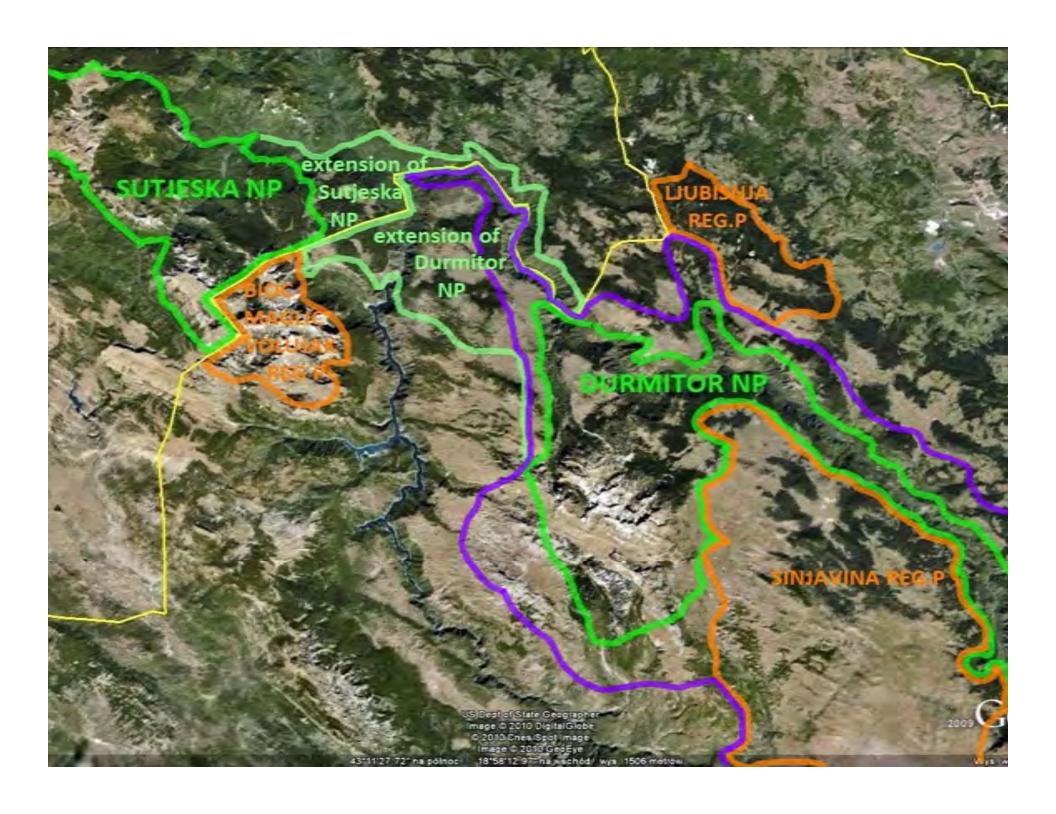


Designation of Regional Parks would require

- involvement of local municipalities
- and Forest Management Services units of the Public Enterprise "Crna Gora šume"
- and funding support
- for the preparation of proposals for conservation of the area (studije zaštite)
- and management plans (plan upravljanja)
- required by the legislation.

Should these plans be implemented

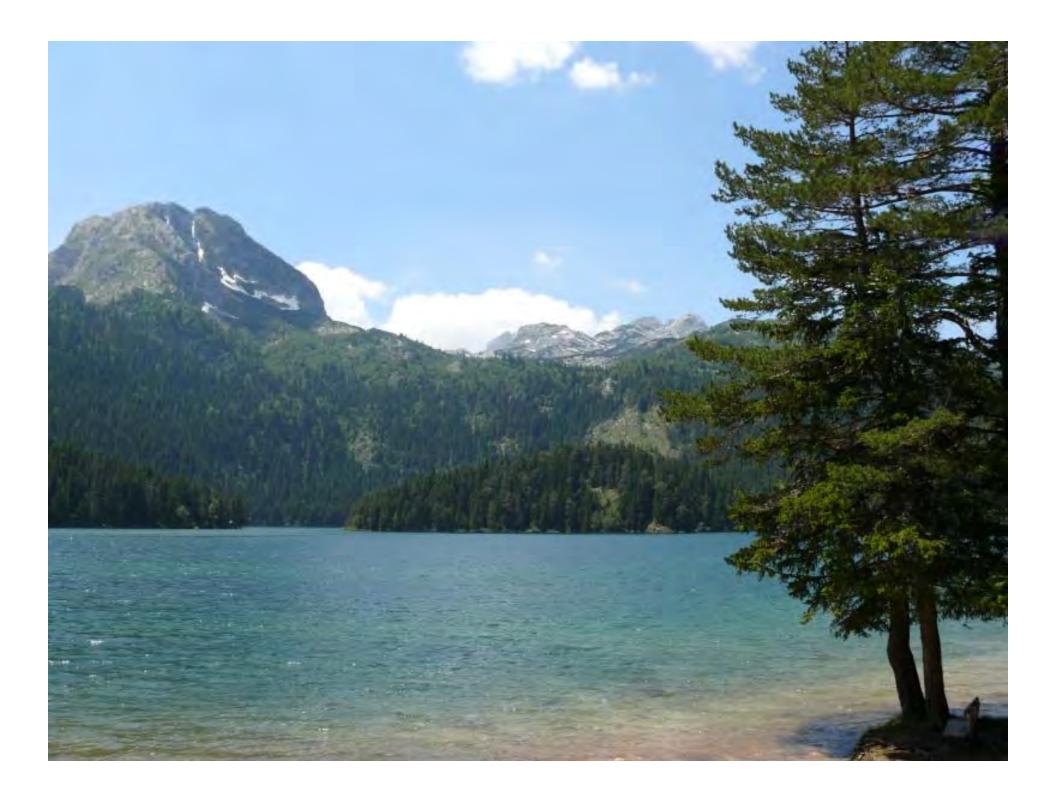
- "Durmitor Tara Canyon Sutjeska"
- could become a transboundary complex
- of five large-scale protected areas
- encompassing in total some 136'476 ha
- buffered on the Montenegrin side by the remaining parts of the Tara River Basin Biosphere Reserve.

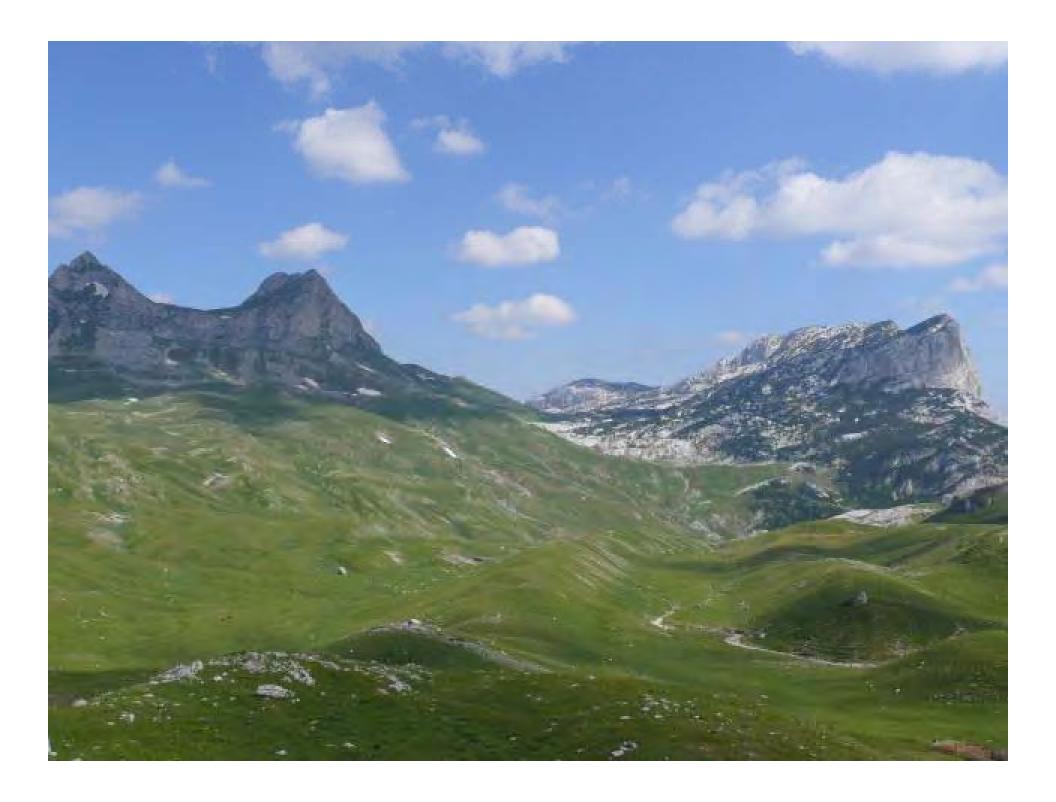


The label of a 'transboundary protected area of exceptional natural values and sustainable tourism development'

- would increase the tourist attractiveness of the region
- and facilitate marketing of the regional tourist product abroad.









- Extension of national parks and designation of regional parks
- Harmonized functional zonation on both sides
- Harmonized management plans
- Common research and conservation projects in the Tara river canyon
- Common nature inventories and databases
- Common sustainable tourism development strategy
- Common tourist products and packages
- Visitor infrastructure in protected areas



- Common TBPA visitor centre at the Šćepan Polje border crossing
- Networking for visitor and tourist information centres in the region
- Common promotional materials and tourist map
- Common 'coordinating body' for transboundary cooperation and consultations
- Capacity building for protected areas and local partners (National Parks, Municipal Secretariats for physical planning and environmental protection, Forestry Management Units).

