Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency

(A brief profile)



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Pristina, 2011

Dear reader,



In your hands you have a publication, which aims to bring you information about the KEPA's organizational structure, duties and responsibilities, as well as some of the main results and achievements since its establishment and until today.

Even though by the number of staff and its resources KEPA is a small institution, its functionality has made a valuable contribution to advancing, improving and accelerating the resolving of many environmental protection issues in Kosovo.

With the establishment of KEPA, the state of environmental monitoring is addressed in a professional approach; the foundation of environmental information system is set up; quality data and information for the state of environment are produced; and an assessment of the state of environment and impacts of various sectors on it is made.

By the data collected, appropriate reports on the state of the Environment are prepared.

Following the data on the quality of air, water, soil, nature and biodiversity, health and environment, waste and other relevant information, KEPA provided the possibility to formulate conclusions and recommendations on determination of future environmental policies, and to taking preventive and controlling measures for environmental protection

By its activities, KEPA has contributed to addressing many environmental problems and issues, and offered alternatives for resolving them. Providing the MESP with the professional assistance on all environmental fields, was one of key activities of KEPA

KEPA has established close cooperation relations with the European Environment Agency, as well as with many other relevant international institutions.

It is evident, that any institution, agency or organization, whether governmental or nongovernmental organization, cannot successfully perform its mission without the close, open and constructive cooperation with other relevant institutions.

Therefore, the success of KEPA is strongly dependent on cooperation with the governmental institutions, municipalities, economic operators, NGOs and various professional and research institutions.

On this occasion, we thank all institutions and collaborators for their cooperation and support offered to KEPA's commitments, projects and activities.

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Dr.sc Ilir Morina Chief Executive

KEPA's Mission and Vision

Mission

Environmental Protection Agency of Kosovo (KEPA) is a governmental institution, which through integrated environmental monitoring, effective environmental information system, and continuous reporting on the state of the environment, aims to maintain the quality of air, water, soil and biodiversity, to promote the use of renewable energy resources, and sustainable use of natural resources, in order to ensure a healthy environment for present and future generations, in concordance with the progress of economic and social developments

Vision

Effective environmental monitoring, informing and reporting, for a healthy environment and sustainable economic growth.



Foundation

In the process of completing the institutional infrastructure, and increasing the effectiveness and results in environmental protection, the MESP established KEPA as a very important institution.
KEPA is established by the law on Environmental Protection (2003/9. Article 39. Paragraph 1) "...as an institution within the MESP, to perform professional, administrative, research, supporting tasks in the field of environmental protection, nature protected areas and biological diversity".
Initially, the organization of the Agency is defined by the Administrative instruction, with ordinal No. 25, and protocol No 22/03.
On 06 / 06 /2006, the Chief Executive of KEPA was appointed. By the decision of the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, with ordinal No. 03 / 07; protocol No. 38; dated 05/06/2006, KEPA became fully operational and adequately completed with staff.
The KEPA's staff is received by the MESP, following an internal restructuration, compliant with the regulation No. 2001/19 on executive branch of the provisional institutions of self-government in Kosovo.

Due to certain administrative, financial, personnel and other problems and obstacles, KEPA couldn't become fully operational until June 2007.
In 2011, under the reorganization of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, based on the Strategic Development Plan 2010 -2014 of MMPH; and pursuant to the Decision of the Government of Kosovo No. 09/26, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning has signed the Administrative Instruction No. 13, on organizational structure, and responsibilities of the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency.
According to this Administrative Instruction, KEPA is organized in: Institutes, Directorates, Divisions, Sectors, and units
Institutes, within KEPA are: Kosovo Institute for Nature Protection, Kosovo Hydro-meteorological Institute, and Spatial Planning Institute. Whereas, Directorates within KEPA are: Directorate of Environmental Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting; and Directorate of National Parks.

On 5 June 2011, on the occasion of World Environment Day, KEPA has marked the 5th anniversary of its foundations. In this day, various activities were organized.



Duties and responsibilities of the KEPA

KEPA is responsible for environment and nature monitoring, establish and management of database, and environmental information system. KEPA also has a the duty to give professional opinions on the procedure for approval of management plans of nature protected areas; proposes technical solutions to prevent and reduce environment and nature pollution; develops plans and programs in the field of environmental protection; follows the implementation of environmental action plan; gives professional opinion on urban and spatial plans, prepares reports for the state of the environment; provides scientific and other support for protection of environment, nature, and biological diversity; develops programs and educational materials to raise public awareness for environment.

Fulfilment of these tasks is accomplished by participating in, promoting and coordinating activities, which lead to a long term development and well-being, through protecting the environment and sensitizing the public.

The KEPA's duties and responsibilities include:

- To provide appropriate information for Kosovo Government and Assembly, in order to enable them to develop and implement adequate environmental policies;

- To develop and coordinate common environmental information system, and data collection system, connected to environmental monitoring system in Kosovo;

- To develop and maintain respective centres of data related to the environment (socio-economic information, environmental pressures, and, the state and quality of the environment);

- To develop procedures for processing and assessing of environmental data collected, including modelling and visual presentation;

- To perform professional tasks – advices during the determination of content, methodology and techniques of environmental monitoring, and to support the development and implementation of environmental programs and projects;

- To compare and improve the quality of data collection for the environment (quality check and quality control);

- To draft reports on the overall state of the environment in Kosovo, as well as to develop specific reports as for: air, water, soil, biodiversity, climate change;

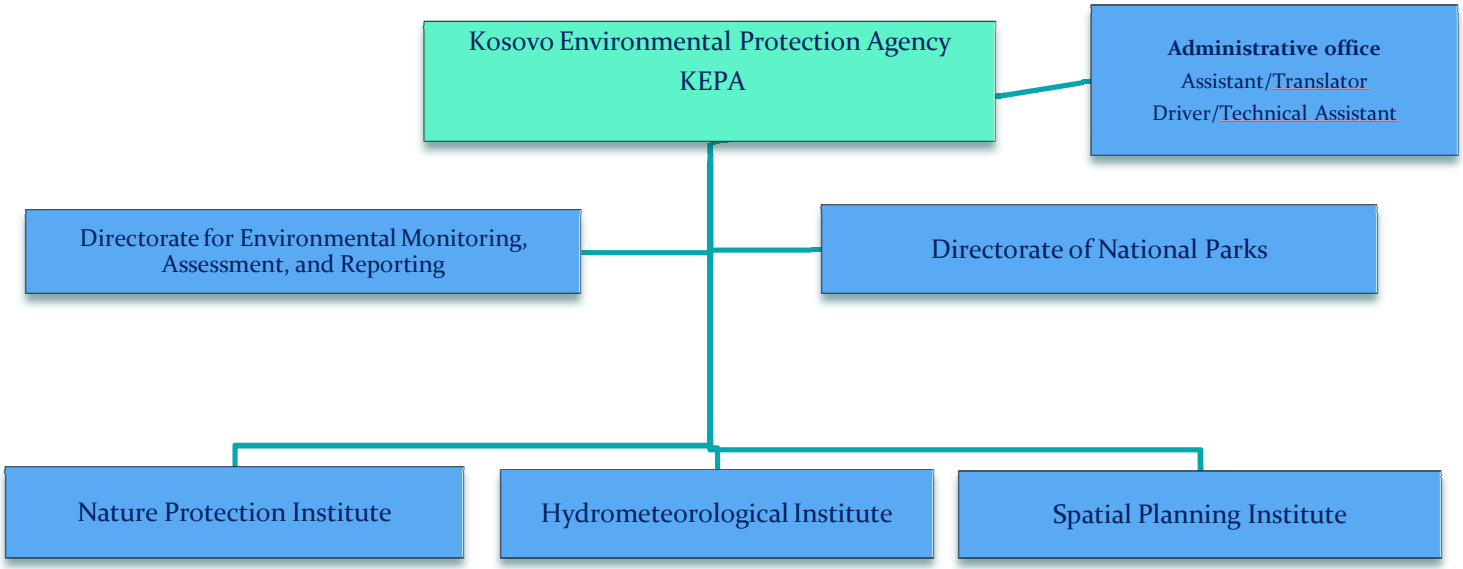
- To prepare reports for other purposes, such as reports on regional basis, e.g. radioactivity, environmental quality and health in a specific Kosovo region;

- To support other Kosovo institutions on developing new environmental policies

- To cooperate with the EEA and other relevant institutions of the European Union

- To cooperate with others for development and implementation of environmental programs and projects.

- To ensure publication and/or access to environmental information, considering European standards and communication technology;



Organizational chart of KEPA





Directorate of Environmental Monitoring Assessment, and Reporting

One of the main pillars of KEPA is the Directorate of Environmental Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting.
This directorate establishes the main monitoring guidelines and criteria, based on national and European environmental standards and indicators. It follows and receives information on environmental pressures from different sectors such as energy, industry, transport, agriculture, forestry etc. Based on analyzes of reliable data received, this directorate brings information on the state and quality of air, water, soil, nature & biodiversity, relations environment/health, waste, as well as other relevant information.

This directorate designs and organizes the environmental monitoring in line with MESP requests, and with strategic plans and programs. It provides adequate inputs to systematic and continuous monitoring of environment, nature values, natural resources of special values, and impacts on public health in Kosovo.

Continuously collets data on environmental parameters and indicators, monitor the changes of main environmental pressure sectors, changes on the state of the environment, and conditions related to: water, air, soil, forests, biodiversity, noise, vibration and wastes. This directorate intends to perform chemical analysis, data processing, conducting assessments and projections, and warns about potential environmental incidents.
The Directorate manages verification of polluting installations, legal persons and private companies that have legal obligations on self monitoring of emissions.

It is also responsible for drafting the general report on the state of the environment, sector report, developing environmental plans and programs as well as developing informative and educational materials as leaflets, brochures, etc.

The Directorate for Environmental Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting is also responsible for cooperation with the European Environment Agency - EEA, and the European Environment Information and Observation Network – EIONET, as well as with other local and international organizations. This directorate is committed to establishing and advancing the sustainable development concept as well as development and implementation of programs and projects for environmental protection, risk reduction, and monitoring of environmental projects.



Directorate of National Parks – The National Park "Mali Sharr"

The national Park „Mali Sharr" is the first national park declared in Kosovo (1986). The management authority of this park has started its function in 1995, and ceased during the period 1999-2002. It is reactivated on May 2002.

The National Park "Mali Sharr" is situated in the southern part of the Republic of Kosovo, along the border with the Republic of Macedonia. The national park area is 39,000 ha, located in the territories of four municipalities: Prizren (19 500 ha / 50%), Shtërpcë (15 210 ha / 39%), Suharekë (2 730 ha / 7%) and Kaçanik (1560 ha / 4%). This park is managed by the Directorate of National Park, with its office in Prizren, which functions under the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency. The Directorate of National Park "Mali Sharr" performs all the functions pertaining to the sustainable management of natural resources. This includes, planning, organising, coordinating, and controlling tasks.

The main activities on natural resources management performed by this directorate are: protection/conservation of natural resources; researches of nature values; rational and sustainable use of natural resources; completing the legal, organizational, and financial infrastructure; and sustainable management of the National Park. The Directorate of the National Park, in order to ensure appropriate management and protection of park natural resources, cooperates with many institutions. The work of this directorate is closely linked with other institutions such as: national government, local (municipal) governments, police, prosecutors, courts, inspectors, emergency institutions, fire rescue departments etc. Also, this directorate cooperates closely with nongovernmental organizations of ecologists, hunters, mountaineers etc.

The Directorate of National Park "Mali Sharr: is consisted of two sectors: the Forestry Sector and Biology Sector, which perform tasks from their respective fields. This directorate employs managerial staff, professional staff, and administrative staff, who work in the office and on the field. Forest guards are permanently on the ground and they ensure the natural resources (forests, flora and fauna) are safeguarded.

The National park is managed under the Law for the National Park "Mali Sharr" (official gazette KSAK 11/86). Other laws that relate to the National Park are: Law on Nature Protection; Law on Environment; Law on Forests; Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo. Other important documents for the management of the National Park are the Spatial Plan and the Management Plan of the National Park.



Nature Protection Institute

The Kosovo Nature protection Institute is the central institute for nature preservation and monitoring of protected nature values of Kosovo.

In 1968, a unit for nature protection has been established within the Kosovo Authority for Protection of Culture Monuments. By a decision for dividing the nature protection unit from the authority for protection of culture monuments, the Authority (*Albanian original "Ent"*) for Nature Protection is established. This authority functioned under the law for the Authority for Nature Protection.

In 1988, the Kosovo Assembly adopted the law for protection of nature values, wherein the article 78; paragraph 2, defines the responsibilities of this authority. One year later, the Kosovo Assembly adopted the law for the Authority for Nature and Environment Protection.
After the war in Kosovo, new political situation was created, where based on regulation 1999/1, "all legislative and executive power in Kosovo is shifted to UNMIK"
In the year 2000, the ex authority for Nature and Environment Protection is registered at interim civil administration of UN, with the name "Kosovo Institute for Nature and Environment Protection", based in Pristina.
In 2001, by the establishment of Provisional Institutions of Self Government, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning was established. At that time, the Nature Protection Institute is included at the MESP. Whereas, in 2006, by the establishment of Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency, the Nature Protection Institute becomes part of this Agency, where nowadays is.

The Kosovo Institute for Nature Protection performs nature protection activities, mainly dealing with:

- Collection and processing of data related to nature protection;
- Development of guidelines for practical protection of plant and animal species, habitats, ecosystems and landscapes;
- Monitoring of biological and landscape diversity, and proposes measures for their protection;
- Researches, analyses and proposes special nature areas for protection
- Determines criteria and conditions for nature protection, management of protected areas, and use of nature resources within protected areas;
- Performs statistical analyses, assesses the monitoring results and prepares reports on the state of nature;
- Actively takes part on implementation of international legal acts (conventions etc) for nature protection



Hydrometeorological Institute

The Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute (IHMK) performs the hydrological and meteorological measurements, and monitors the air quality in Kosovo territory,
The Hydro-meteorological monitoring activities in Kosovo have started in 1922, when in the "Albanian-Albanian" border in Vermice, a hydrometer and a limno-graph were placed at the Drini i Bardhë River. Also, the first climate measurements are made at the same place.

The current water monitoring network is spread according to water flaws, respectively according to Kosovo river basins, whereas the meteorological stations are placed according to latitude, in order to accurately evidence and register meteorological elements and their occurrences.
The Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute also manages the network of air quality monitoring stations.

This institute is consisted of **Meteorology Sector**, which performs meteorological and agro-meteorological measurements; **Hydrology Sector**, which monitors surface waters; and **Laboratory Sector**, which performs physical and chemical analyses of water, air and soil samples.

The main duties and responsibilities of IHMK are:

Establishing and maintaining the basic network of hydrological and meteorological stations, and the organization of measurements and observations of: hydrological, meteorological, biometeorological, and hydrobiological elements and phenomena.

The study, processing, storage, exchange and publication of hydrometeorological, and monitoring results.

Organization, maintenance, and development of: observation, calculation, and forecasting systems.

Performing measurements, meteorological observations with radar; systematic observation tasks in river water flows, in ordinary cases and in cases of disorder of ground waters.

Systematic monitoring, observation, and reporting on: air pollution, atmospheric precipitation, surface and ground waters; forecasting the hydrometeorological conditions and early warning for elementary hydrometeorological disasters.



Spatial Planning Institute

The Spatial Planning Institute (IPH) is an integral part of KEPA. It was established in October 2003, by a special legal act. The main activity of this institute is development of Kosovo Spatial Plan and preparation and drafting of plans for areas with specific content and of special state interest. Another important activity is human resources capacity building, and professional technical assistance for workers at municipal level, in the process of developing their local documents such as Municipal and Urban Development plans.

So far, this institute has produced important and necessary documents in the spatial planning sector in particular, and other important documents for the Kosovo Government in general.

The Kosovo Spatial Plan 2010-2020, is one of the most distinguished documents produced so far.

The IPH has also completed development of several spatial plans for specific areas as: Spatial Plan of the National Park "Mali Sharr"; Spatial Plan for the zone of special economic interest "Fusha e Mihjes se Re" ("New Mining Field); and Spatial Plan for the zone of special interest "Kleçkë dhe Divjakë".

Development of the Spatial Plan for the zone of special interest "Hidrocentrali Zhur" is at the final stage, whereas the Spatial Plan for the zone of special interest "Ujëvarat e Mirushës" is under development process.

Apart from the spatial plans, the IPH has also produced a number of other documents, as the spatial analysis for municipalities: Suharekë, Vushtrri, Sharr, Kaçanik, Malishevë, Kamenicë and Obiliq. These spatial analyses have been appreciated as of great assistance to those municipalities in drafting their municipal development plans.

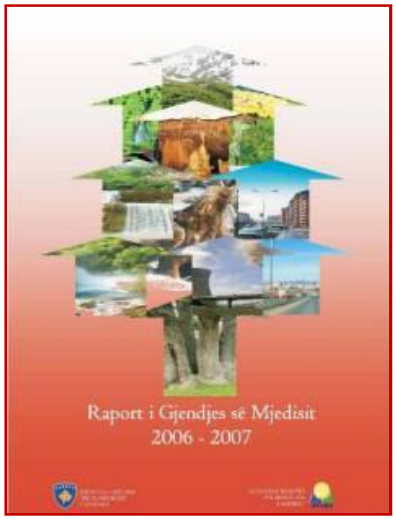
An important part of the institute's work was the research made on the field of informal settlements. Based on results of the research conducted in several municipalities, a guideline for treatment of these settlements was developed.

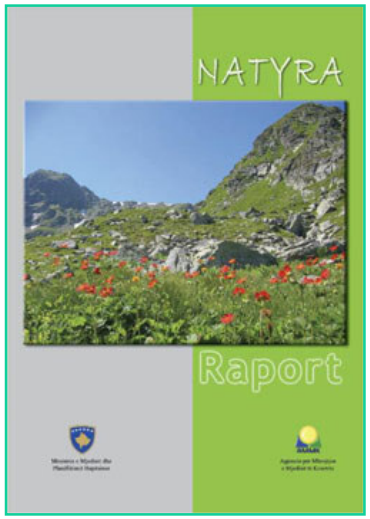
The IPH, closely cooperates with national and international institutions, organizations and professional individuals. The cooperation is implemented in various forms, such as: foreign consultants coming at IHP and training our local staff; IPH staff attending meetings, seminars, conferences of national and international character; IPH involvement in projects initiated by various local and foreign organizations

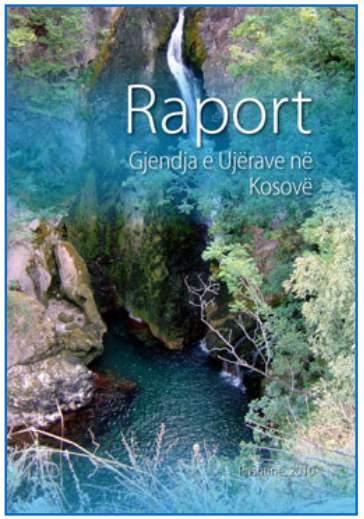


Publications by KEPA



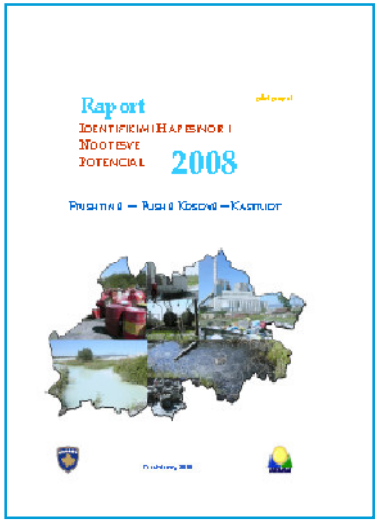


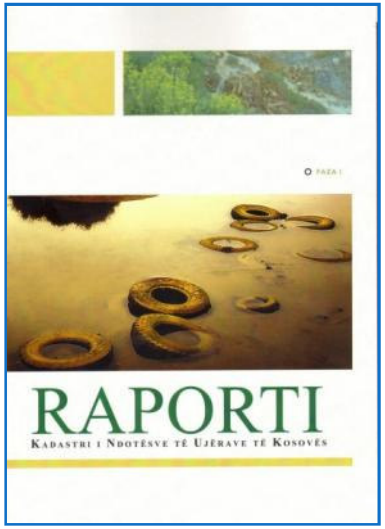












Cooperation with the European Environment Agency

In March 2010, under the project "Participation of West Balkan Countries in the Work of the European Environment Agency", the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency has begun the cooperation with the European Environment Agency

In this process, the following activities are carried out so far:

- A NFP (National Focal Point) is appointed and the NRC (National Reference Centres) network with 23 reference centres is developed
- Participation in dozens of workshops, seminars, trainings, and meetings organized by the EEA and EIONET
- The following reports are submitted to EIONET: Report on air emissions; report on protected areas; report on green house gases; report on river water quality; and ozone monthly report.
- Information and experiences for reports, policies and achievements on the environment are shared and exchanged.
- On the EIONET (SERIS and AoA) portals, dozens of reports on the state of the environment, sectoral reports, assessments, and documents are posted.

KEPA's activities were supported by donors

Given the support and assistance provided by various donors, many activities of KEPA were successfully completed. For the support provided, the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency in particular thanks the European Commission and its Liaison Office in Kosovo, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) office in Kosovo, and GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) project in Kosovo.

Conferences organized by KEPA

With the support of donors, and other institutions, the KEPA has organized the following conferences:

- Environmental Protection Through Energy Efficiency 2006,
- Environmental Monitoring and Reporting, Needs and Opportunities 2007.
- Practices, Opportunities, Actions – Environment Protection and Energy Efficiency, 2008.



"In the New Kosovo, with clean energy, and healthy environment"

Environment Protection and Energy Efficiency
Practices, Opportunities, Actions
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
PRISHTINË, KOSOVË, 20 – 21 OCTOBER 2008

Twinning Project "Support to Environment Sector"

The Kosovo Environment Protection Agency (KEPA) is the beneficiary of an EU Twinning project named "Support to the Environment Sector in Kosovo". It is an EU funded project with duration of 22 months, a budget of 1.0 million EUR and 0.1 million EUR of co-financing from the Kosovo State Budget.

To improve the state of the environment in Kosovo, a number of efforts have already been taken by the Kosovo Environment Protection Agency. In conjunction with the efforts to start the implementation of EU Environmental Policies and the preparations for the utilisation of the future IPA Environment Development Component, KEPA has to introduce new major policies and means to support general, sectoral and institutional reforms and developments.

This project will be implemented by the Environment Agency Austria, Umweltbundesamt (UBA), in co-operation with experts from the Finnish Meteorological Institute and the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre. These three Countries already passed the process of EU accession and have successfully implemented similar twining projects in East and South-East Europe. The Kosovo Environment Protection Agency expects that this project will be a milestone for preparing Kosovo's road towards EU.

The overall objective of this Twinning Project is continued and sustainable improvement of environmental conditions including air quality, management and control of water resources to meet EU standards, particularly in relation to public health and economic development of Kosovo. The project purpose is focused on the further institutional support to the Environment Sector in Kosovo.

The main expected results of the project are:

- Strengthened administrative capacity in KEPA and relevant departments from the MESP on legal, institutional and technical matter of environmental monitoring with special focus on air and water.
- Enhanced capacity in KEPA to meet at least 30 % of the reporting requirements to the European Environment Agency for the priority dataflow indicators (air, water, environment protection)
- A drafted public awareness strategy and production of relevant materials
- Establishment of a modern data management including the development of a database.

The project is divided into 4 major components:

- Component 1 "Institutional, legal and technical support to KEPA and the relevant departments in the MESP to enhance their capacity to manage and maintain the monitoring activities related to the key environment issues including water and air quality, nature protection etc"

- Component 2 "Support in the preparation of the State of the Environment Report and enhancing the cooperation with the European Environment Agency"

- Component 3 "Support for the revision of data processing, data management and preparation of a database"

- Component 4 "Support in the preparation of a public awareness strategy and elaboration of materials"



Environmental newsletter

The environmental newsletter is a joint contribution of the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The need to increase the level of qualitative information about the environment has been one of the reasons that have prompted the publication of this newsletter. The main aim of this publication is to bring to the public important information about the environment, but also to reflect on the commitment, efforts and activities of environmental institutions, non-governmental organisations and civic initiatives for improving environmental conditions. In the newsletter, various tips of information for environmental protection, environment curiosities, global environmental events calendar, and also important environmental facts are presented. Three editions of the newsletter are published so far.

KEPA's Website

The official website of the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency www.ammk-rks.net, is very important part of KEPA's work and activity. At this site, which is in Albanian, Serbian and English, visitors may find plenty of important environmental information. Here can be found information on KEPA's activities; KEPA's publications and reports; presentations; materials and other data for the state of the environment.
Our website's visitors are students, researchers, donors, foreign organizations, local governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and many other clients seeking quality information about the environment.



Photos from KEPA's activities



Organization of environmental events



Research expeditions



Official launching of twinning project



Participation in EEA's activities



Regional cooperation



Cooperation with NGOs



Summer Eco School



Debates and promotions



Memorandum of cooperation



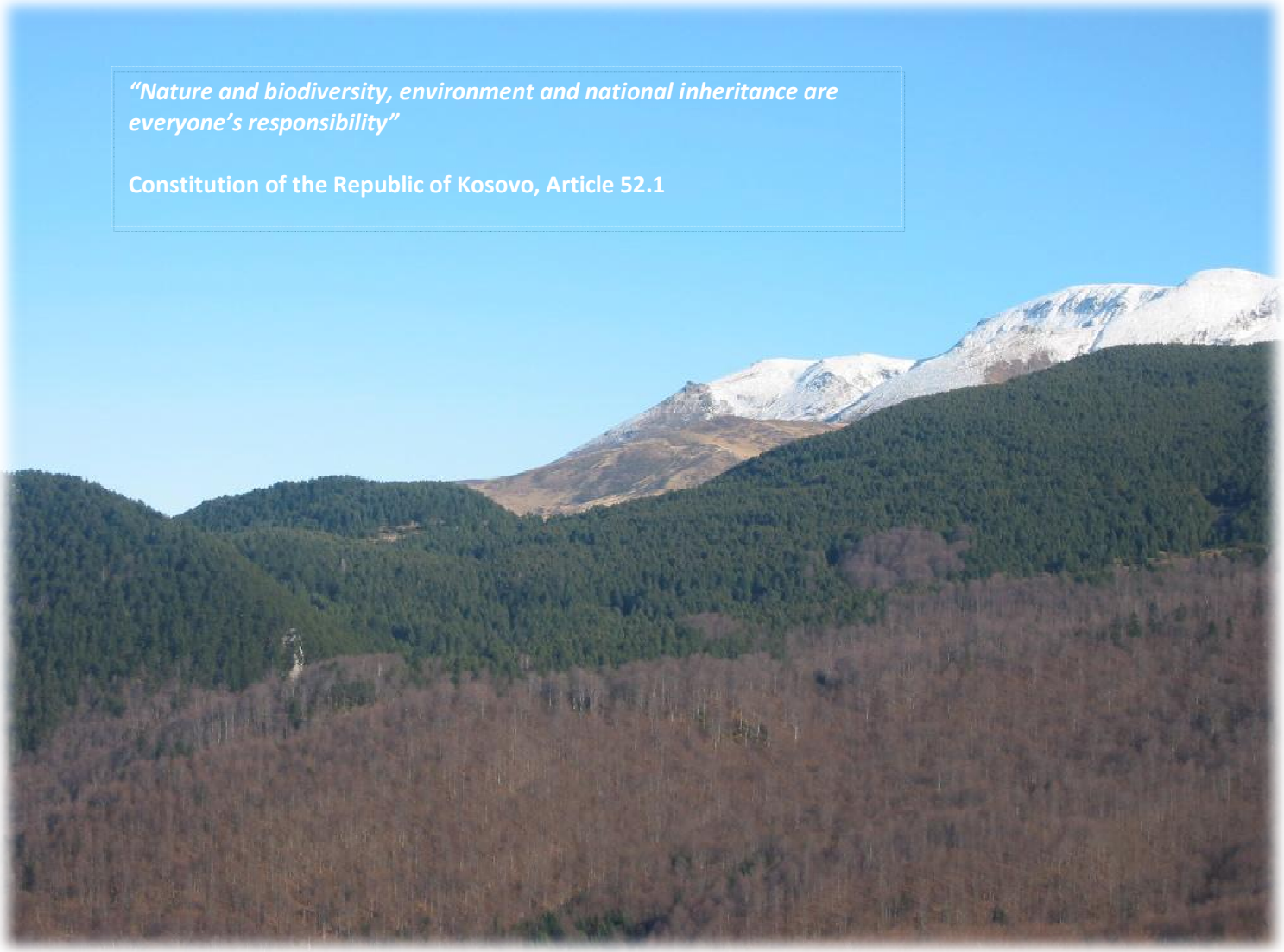
Study visit



International conference



Scientific researches


“Nature and biodiversity, environment and national inheritance are everyone’s responsibility”
Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, Article 52.1

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Front page - A landscape from Sharr Mountains

Pictures - Natural beauties of the National Park "Mali Sharr"

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Pristina, 2011