



WWF

FACTSHEET

2016

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# Making Gërmia a Modern Park

Gërmia, the Green Oasis of Prishtina and Environmental School for everyone

## Introduction

GËRMIA  
HAS:



OVER 1 MILLION  
VISITORS PER YEAR

MORE THAN 52  
MEDICAL PLANTS  
IDENTIFIED

WWF Adria and Ecopana are implementing Gërmia field project as part of “Protected areas for Nature and People” project. This project will help make Gërmia an urban park, full of activities, visitors and a great place for scientists and students to learn about environment. This project is conducted in cooperation with eight different countries, where good practices will be shared among each other.

Having a natural pearl within any capital city is the value worth admiration. Luckily, we have one, here in Kosovo\*! On the slopes of Prishtina, the story about the natural beauty begins. The place that shouldn't be

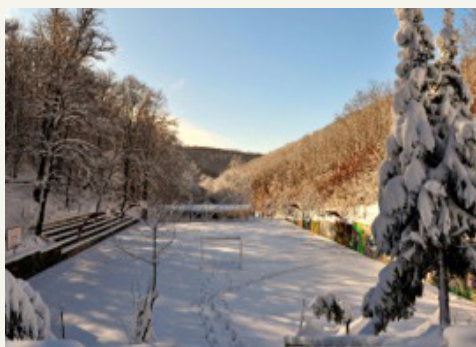
missed by any citizen of Prishtina nor a tourists, who come in increasing numbers. Gërmia park tells it's own story: apart of being the best resource of oxygen to the people living in the capital, it is rich with flora and fauna, easily approachable for relaxation, let's you discover wonderful world of nature and it can become the best environmental kindergarten and classroom for children of Kosovo.

With the proper educational programs that WWF and Ecopana plan to develop hand-in-hand with park's management, Gërmia Park has great potential to become a botanical garden and school for future generations.



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Areal view of Germia pool, a refreshment during hot summers for Prishtina citizens



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The winter view of the famous basketball court of Germia Park

\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the IJC opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



GËRMIA IS A RICH NATURAL GARDEN OF KOSOVO WITH TREES OLDER THAN 150 YEARS, OVER 600 SPECIES OF VASCULAR PLANTS, AROUND 83 FUNGI SPECIES AND 10 SPECIES OF MOSSES AND LICHENS

## Top values of Gërmia Park



Six groups of stakeholders identified values of Gërmia: Locals around protected area, scientists/experts, civil society, government, business sector and international community

WWF's story with the Gërmia Park began several years ago... The idea of helping Gërmia grow into park that would leave its visitors breathless was born in 2014, when values and potentials of the park were identified during a joint assessment in which all stakeholders\* took part – with people who work in or related to Gërmia.

Proper management structure in the park with defined plan wasn't set for years, so the risk of degradation and change of parks' values and ecosystems was identified. Some of the issues that came up include: lack of spatial and management plan, lack of cycle-routes and appropriate trails for visitors, lack of recreational and visitors infrastructure, sport and tourism, lack of biodiversity inventory, inappropriate forest

pest treatments, no biodiversity monitoring in place, professional staff in protected area and capacity to address priorities.

That identification was an eye-opener of what could be done in Gërmia! The park presents great potential for generating new jobs, economical growth and potential for education on natural, health and cultural values. WWF and Ecopana believes that tourism; recreation and health benefits of the park have not been exploited at its full potential and with good tourist and recreation and education packages, economic growth is secured. At the same time with the proper management plan, that growth will be in harmony with nature conservation.



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## Top values and potentials of Gërmia Park

The beauty of the park wasn't the only reason for WWF to include Gërmia among the parks where they work more intensively. Being a member of the network of protected areas of Dinarides - "Parks Dinarides", Gërmia became important protected area for the region. In addition, WWF has recognized its potentials to increase economic and social benefits in

the future. There are other values with non economic benefits under the present management of the protected area. Building knowledge about Gërmia and its capacity could easily generate revenue, and Gërmia has great opportunity to exploit it and turn potential in economic benefit. Education is being recognized as potential by experts, government and local community.





**Ecopana as a WWF Adria partner will help Gërmia Park develop into a functional park, with the following:**

- 1. Support Prishtina municipality to create a management body.
- 2. Support Prishtina municipality in creating a spatial plan for protected area and a ten year development/management plan as required by law.
- 3. Conduct a study on visitor profile, preferences and expectations on which to base outreach and engagement activities.
- 4. Build a Gërmia educational program for schools, and incorporate it into the school's curriculum.
- 5. Identify all the existing trails and improve and adapt them for all groups including people with disabilities.
- 6. Engage with stakeholders interested in collaborating with Gërmia on health benefits of nature.
- 7. Help business owners understand how their business depends on natural values and ecosystem services and how to improve their environmental practices and social responsibility by engaging with Gërmia.



THE CURRENT SIZE OF THE GËRMIA PARK IS  
**1126 HECTARS**

AFTER DECLARED A PROTECTED LANDSCAPE IN FEBRUARY 2016, IT IS PLANNED TO GROW INTO 2302 HECTARS, WHERE IT WILL EMBRACE WITH GRAČANICA MUNICIPALITY, BADOVC LAKE AND THE BEAR SANCTUARY





## Increasing benefits

Suggestions from the workshop include a number of practical actions which the park management along with other interested stakeholders could take forward for increasing social and economical benefits:

**1.** Development of a comprehensive tourism offer to include existing products such as rent-a-bike to be supported with cycle routes, better promotion and management of existing recreation facilities. **That will increase health and sports benefits.**

**2.** Importance of education usually reflects the dedication given to educational programs in the protected area. Number of staff and facilities focused on education – management authority could **establish partnerships** (scientific and expert community, Ministry of Education, schools,

universities, etc.) to exploit this value as economic benefit.

**3.** Through proper tourism offers and educational programs Gërmia Park can **increase the number of visitors** and can become a social and environmental capital of Kosovo.

**4.** Green jobs linked to conservation and management of natural values are **source of income, ensure recognition and quality of natural environment**, which in the same time attracts tourists.



**TOURISM & RECREATION, JOBS IN PROTECTED AREA AND NATURE CONSERVATION ARE RECOGNIZED AMONG LOCALS, BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENT AS ECONOMIC VALUES AND POTENTIALS OF GËRMIA**



The basketball court is the most visited site in the Gërmia Park

All foreseen activities developed in Gërmia by Ecopana are supported by the project “Protected Areas for People and Nature” implemented by WWF Adria and Ecopana. The project is funded by Sida and will last until the end of 2019.



Working to sustain the natural world for people and wildlife

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