DOLPHINS - CONNECTING PEOPLE

Martina Markov, PhD
Kornati National Park – Facts

- Kornati Archipelago – the densest Archipelago in Mediterranean (147)
- Established 1980.
- 216 km² 89 islands, isles and reefs
- 4 strictly protected zones
- Privately owned 99,99 % (620)
Kornati values

- exceptional geographic & geomorphological features („crowns‟)
- anthropogenic terrestrial vegetation (rocky pastures)
- rich marine biodiversity (Posidonia oceanica, Tursiops truncatus) and oceanographic specificities
- cultural and traditional heritage
Tourism in Kornati

- 1970s
- the predominant form of tourism is boating and sightseeing with short or long stays (individual and group visits)
- majority of visits are individual (13,846 boat tickets) while group visitors (excursion boats) are represented with 720 group visits (2015)
- other forms of tourism: diving visits, catering (restaurants and taverns) and accommodation in small houses
Main Obstacles In Management

• PRIVATE PROPERTY (and national governance!!!!)
• LACK OF COOPERATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS (especially land-owners)
• HIGH MANAGEMENT COST
Budget

- Very expensive management
- Cca 1.000.000 Euro (50% national budget)
- 4.3% for field research
- Not enough for a SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

WHAT WE NEED IS TO BE CREATIVE!!!!
In 2015, Kornati NP was awarded with the **European Charter for Sustainable Tourism for a 5-years period**

Interpretation program (on excursion boats) was identified by using SWOT analysis during Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy and Action Plan development process.
Project background

- Broader Kornati NP area = NATURA 2000 for bottle-nosed dolphin (HR3000419)
- Lack of money for proper dolphin research (some small scale research is ongoing)
- Need to improve interpretation program during excursion trips (low knowledge transfer among visitors, lack of interaction,...)

VS

- Interested student (BOKU, Wien) in dolphin research
- 3 ECST members – excursion boat owners who want to improve their service
The Project Idea

Design of research program in order to:

1. Get knowledge on dolphin sightings during excursions to Kornati important for:
   - conservation of Kornati population
   - improving those excursions with info- edu content

2. Enhance cooperation with stakeholders

Additional activity: Structure and satisfaction of visitors questionnaire
The Project

- July 18 – August 29 2016
- 1+1 volunteers, 3 ECST members
- 27 + 14 working days (2 overlapping)
- Total costs = **1,200 Euro** (travel costs & food)
- 2,33 sightings per excursion
- Valuable data about dolphin distribution
  - II - for excursion boat operators
- More analysis: GIS
Follow up?

• Interest of stakeholders for continuation in 2017.
• And co-financing volunteer’s program – young interpretators and dolphin researchers
• EVS – ERASMUS+ ?
THANK YOU
Public Institution „Kornati National Park”
Murter – CROATIA

www.np-kornati.hr
martina.markov@np-kornati.hr