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Mr
Milo Đjukanović
Prime Minister of Montenegro
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MONTENEGRO

Gabriel Schwaderer
Executive Director

11 November 2016

Open letter: Privatization of National Parks in Montenegro

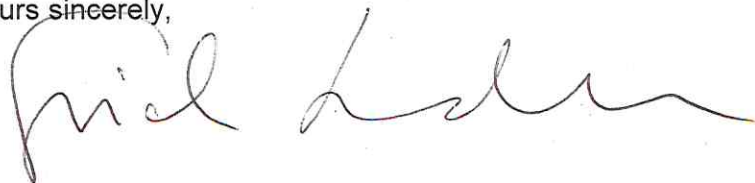
Dear Prime Minister Đjukanović,

We are very much concerned about the most recent news that the Montenegrin Government is currently planning to privatize the Public Enterprise of National Parks of Montenegro and eventually the national parks as such as well.

We are deeply convinced that national parks should be managed by a public entity and that public property in a national park should not be sold under any circumstances. Furthermore, we would like to emphasize that the intention to designate and operate a national park should always be the protection of nature and human well-being services. It is a contradiction in itself to request that nature protection in general and national parks in particular must earn net income and contribute to the state budget. We are convinced that it should work the other way round: the state should invest in nature protection and in national parks. The local population should benefit through small-scale businesses from this investment.

Therefore, we are calling on the Montenegrin Government to maintain the management bodies of national parks in public ownership and to invest in the maintenance and wherever necessary in the restoration of natural capital.

Yours sincerely,



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Copies of this letter will be sent to:

- Ms Anneliese Dodds, Member of the European Parliament
- Mr Branimir Gvozdenović, Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Government of Montenegro
- Mr Dirk Lange, Head of Unit for Montenegro, Western Balkans, DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
- Ambassador Hans Günther Mattern, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Podgorica
- Ms Maja Mikosinska, Policy Officer in charge of the enlargement process for Montenegro, Global Sustainable Development, DG Environment, European Commission
- Ms Terry Reintke, Member of the European Parliament

