



INTERNATIONAL BALKAN CHAMOIS CONFERENCE

25–27 June 2026 | Konitsa, Greece

Vikos–Aoos UNESCO Global Geopark

DAY I - Thursday, 25 June 2026

PRESENTATIONS BLOCK I: NATIONAL STATUS OF THE BALKAN CHAMOIS

08:30 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 10:15 Welcome Addresses

- Prof. Juan Herrero, Ass. Prof. at Univ of Saragossa & Co-Chair of IUCN/Caprinae Specialist Group
- Ms. Katerina Koutsovoulou, Biologist, Coordinator of LIFE IP 4Natura Project, Hellenic Green Fund
- Mr. Andreas Papaspyrou, Mayor of Konitsa
- Dr. Haritakis Papaioannou, on behalf of the Conference Organising Committee

10:15 – 11:00 Plenary Lecture: Present and Future Challenges for the Conservation of Chamois
Speaker: Prof. Sandro Lovari, Professor Emeritus, Maremma Natural History Museum - Grosseto

11:00 – 11:25 The Balkan Chamois in Greece

Speaker: Dr. Haritakis Papaioannou, Biologist, Association «Balkan Chamois Society»

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 – 12:25 The Balkan Chamois in Albania

Speakers: Dr. Aleksandër Trajçe, Executive Director & Bledi Hoxha, Project manager, PPNEA – Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania

12:25 – 12:50 The Balkan Chamois in North Macedonia

Speaker: Dragan Stojkovski, Volunteer from the Biology Students Research Society, MES – Macedonian Ecological Society

12:50 – 13:15 The Balkan Chamois in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Speaker: Dr. Vanja Daničić, Associate Professor, Faculty of Forestry, University of Banja Luka

13:15 – 13:40 The Balkan Chamois in Serbia

Speaker: Prof. Dragan Gacić, Professor, Faculty of Forestry, University of Belgrade

13:40 – 15:00 Lunch break (buffet lunch at the conference venue)

15:00 – 15:25 The Balkan Chamois in Bulgaria

Speaker: Stephan Avramov, Rewilding officer, Rewilding Rhodopes Foundation

15:25 – 15:50 The Balkan Chamois in Croatia

Speaker: Prof. Nikica Sprem, Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb

15:50 – 16:15 The Balkan Chamois in Kosovo

Speakers: Fatos Lajçi, Executive Director & Bardh Sanaj, Project coordinator, Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA)

16:15 – 16:40 The Balkan Chamois in Montenegro

Speaker: Marina Đurović, Head of conservation department, Agency for the Development and Protection of Orjen LLC – Herceg Novi

16:45 – 17:15 Coffee break

17:15 – 18:15 Wrapping and Discussion Session

DAY II – Friday, 26 June 2026

PRESENTATIONS BLOCK II: CONSERVATION, GENETICS, CONNECTIVITY, WILDERNESS

09:00–09:20 The Balkan Chamois National Action Plan

Speaker: Dr. Haritakis Papaioannou, Biologist, Association «Balkan Chamois Society»

09:20–09:40 Current Knowledge on the Genetic Diversity of Chamois in the Balkan Peninsula: New Data from Greece

Speaker: Dr. Dimitrios Tsaparis, Biologist-Research Fellow, Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research

09:40–10:00 Chamois I & II: Strengthening Connectivity Conservation for the Balkan Chamois in Northwestern Greece (PONT projects)

Speaker: Dr. Maria Petridou, Postdoctoral Researcher, Biodiversity Conservation Lab, Department of Biological Applications and Technologies, University of Ioannina

10:00–10:20 Wilderness Areas in Greece: benefits for chamois

Speaker: Prof. Vassiliki Kati, Professor, Biodiversity Conservation Lab, Department of Biological Applications and Technologies, University of Ioannina

10:20–10:40 Conserving the Balkan Chamois: From Expert Surveys to Genetic Adaptation

Speaker: Dr. Vanja Daničić, Associate Professor, Faculty of Forestry, University of Banja Luka

10:40–11:00 Chamois and Brown Bear: Shared Conservation Challenges in Mountain Ecosystems

Speaker: Dr. Yorgos Mertzanis, Biologist, Brown Bear expert, Board member of CALLISTO – Environmental Organization for Wildlife and Nature

11:00 – 11:40 Coffee break

PRESENTATIONS BLOCK III: DISEASES, HEALTH AND REHABILITATION

11:40–12:05 Pestivirus Expansion, Impact and Management in Pyrenean Chamois

Speaker: Prof. Juan Herrero, Associate Professor at the University of Saragossa and Co-Chair IUCN/Caprinae Specialist Group

12:05–12:30 Clinical management of free-ranging chamois and ungulates: from immobilization to clinical treatment

Speaker: Dr. Panagiotis Azmanis, DVM, PhD, Dip ZooMed (RCVS), Dip ECZM. IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group. Dubai Falcon Hospital/Wadi al Safa Wildlife Center

12:30–12:45 Infectious Diseases of Chamois: Clinical, Epidemiological and Conservation Perspectives

Speaker: Dr. Liliana Costanzi, Veterinarian, NGO Wildlife Initiative, Italy

12:45–13:00 Rehabilitation Program for Wild Ungulates & the Case of Little Chamois Elpida (Hope)

Speaker: Melina Avgerinou, Head of Ungulate Rehabilitation, ANIMA

13:00–14:15 Lunch Break (buffet lunch at the conference venue)

PRESENTATIONS BLOCK IV: CASE STUDIES & HUMAN DIMENSIONS

14:15–14:30 The “Agriogido of Pinovo Association”: Seven Years of Conservation Actions for the Balkan Chamois on Pinovo Mountain

Speaker: Giorgos Kiossis, Veterinarian, Agriogido of Pinovo Association

14:30–14:50 Local Perceptions of Balkan Chamois on Jablanica Mountain

Speaker: Darko Kijtanoski, Nature Protection Programme Coordinator, Center for Environmental Research and Information - Eko-svest

14:50–15:10 Last High-Mountain Refuges: Ecology and Conservation of Balkan Chamois in Sutjeska National Park, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Speaker: Emir Delic, MSc. Biodiversity Expert, GYBN Western Balkans

15:10–15:25 From Field Volunteers to Conservation Data: Supporting Balkan Chamois Connectivity Research in Northwestern Greece

Speaker: Mattia Mastrullo, PhD student, University of Life Sciences of Prague CZU

15:25–15:40 The Road to Recovery: Conservation Actions and Re-introduction of the Balkan Chamois in Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina

Speaker: Prof. Dragan Gacić, Professor, Faculty of Forestry, University of Belgrade

15:40–15:55 BOURAZANI Environmental Educational Park & Natural History Museum and its contribution to local communities

Speaker: Giorgos Tassos, Dr. Veterinarian MSc, Director of BOURAZANI Environmental Educational Park

15:55–16:10 Chamois: a flagship species for the Greek mountains. How the existence of a wild animal can be an attractive feature for wildlife visitors

Speaker: Dr. Anastasios Anestis, Biologist - Entrepreneur

16:10 – 17:00 Coffee break

17:00–17:20 *The Balkan Chamois in the Vikos–Aaos UNESCO Global Geopark: Forty Years of Conservation Efforts*

Speaker: Dr. Haritakis Papaioannou, Coordinator of Vikos–Aaos UNESCO Global Geopark

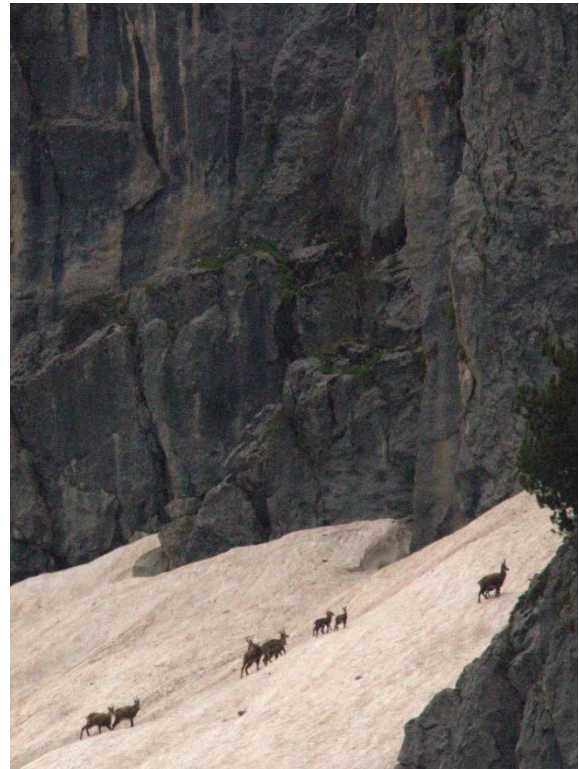
17:20–18:00 Closing Remarks

DAY III – Saturday, 27 June 2026

FIELD EXCURSION

07:00-19:00 Field Excursion to the Eastern Slopes of Mount Tymfi

Exploration of Balkan chamois habitat and ecological corridors in the Vikos–Aoos UNESCO Global Geopark, with opportunities for Balkan chamois observation



The conference will be conducted in English.

The Conference is funded by the Green Fund (Prasino Tameio) under the funding programme “Natural Environment and Climate Resilience 2025” – Outreach Actions 2025.