Balkans Peace Park Project
Summer Programmes-
Thethi, Rugova, Vermosh and Lepushë

B3P Summer Programmes (averaging 6 weeks each) for up to 100 children have run annually since 2008 in Thethi. In addition to volunteers from the UK and US teaching English, local Albanian personnel teach Environmental Awareness as well as offering valuable interpreting skills and acting as local logistics co-ordinators. The first Balkans Peace Park Project (B3P) Kosovar summer programme (Rugova) took place in July 2010, in partnership with The Ideas Partnership (TIP) and Environmentally Responsible Action (ERA). Volunteers came from a number of countries including Canada, Estonia, Finland, Kosova and the UK. Thirty-eight children took part and enjoyed a wide variety of activities.

In July 2012 the programme extended to Albania's northernmost villages of Vermosh and Lepushë close to the Montenegrin border, where volunteers delivered English language modules in the village schools and engaged with local communities to promote the project’s values.

The highlight of the Vermosh summer programme was the children’s performance in English of local folk tales ‘Rozafa Castle’ and ‘Nora of Kelmend’.

The Balkans Peace Park is a registered UK Charity (No. 1105447) and is regulated by the Charities Commission of England and Wales.

www.balkanspeacepark.org
B3P-Albania

In June 2011, the NGO, B3P-Albania (B3P-A) was fully registered there as a non-profit organization with a growing committee. Affiliated to the Balkans Peace Park Project (UK), the NGO’s vision and objectives promote and extend the charity’s vision across the Albanian project region. Officers, based in Shkodër, Albania’s second largest city, campaign to establish good relations with the country’s media, key government ministries and other stakeholders operating in the region promoting environmental planning, rural development and sustainable agriculture and tourism. The NGO is key to the running of the Summer Programmes, welcoming foreign volunteers, and working with US Peace Corps Volunteers already in Albania.

Rotary Scholars

Bradford University (UK) is one of six host universities worldwide to Rotary International Peace Fellowship Programmes. Three Bradford Peace Fellows completed internships and theses following their own interests in various aspects of B3P activity in its regions. In 2009, Satoko Hara from Japan spent three months undertaking fieldwork around tourism and environmental issues in Thethi. In 2010, Goranka Slavujević (Serbian/Croatian/Australian) worked in collaboration with Montenegrin environmentalists. In 2012, Maria Victoria Gabioud from Argentina helped B3P-Albania to organize the “Second Trilateral Stakeholder” meeting in the Proposed Transboundary Protected Area “Prokletije/Bjeshkët e Nemuna Mountains,” co-sponsored by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). B3P represents three of the 24 countries, and one of approximately 400 cross-border projects along the EGB.

Trans-Border Crossings

Since the 2003 B3P trek, members have been active in trekking or cycling across the Bjeshkët e Nemuna/Prokletije mountain range, after obtaining permission to cross unofficial international borders. In October 2011, a B3P committee member attended a meeting organized by Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Podgorica, with border police of the three countries. A system was agreed for getting permission in advance and this is gradually coming into effect. B3P is working to extend trekking route maps produced by GIZ, to show a variety of cross-border routes.