

FINAL REPORT OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FOR "2010 – THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY"

I. Report on activities related to marking "2010 – International Year of Biodiversity"

The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina discussed and adopted, completely, the Integral Report on activities related to marking the year 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. In that sense, the Government concluded that activities in the sphere of nature, biodiversity and environment protection have to be continued concerning the harmonisation of federal legislation with EU regulations, as well as the transposition and implementation of CBD Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020 into the National Strategy and Action Plans for biological diversity conservation. It was also concluded that the action plans for informing the public, destruction and combating of spread of the invasive species ambrosia *Artemisia artemisiifolia* L. and tree of heaven *Ailanthus altissima* (Mill.) Swingle/ within the territory of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina contributed significantly to raising public awareness and level of knowledge about impacts of the mentioned invasive species to human health, entire ecosystems, indigenous flora and fauna and ways of their combating. Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism is responsible to implement the activities of strengthening and improvement of administrative structure and needed capacities for implementation of new regulations in the of environmental legislation, by education and public informing which are the key elements for biological, landscape and geological diversity protection that are recognized by the Law on Nature Protection.

II. Major actions related to marking "2010 – International Year of Biodiversity"

Getting involved into the global action for biodiversity conservation and promoting the sustainable nature resources management, Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism was the organizer of two important actions – **International Colloquium "2010 – International Year of Biodiversity"** and the **Fourth Eco-Camp of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2010**,

a) International Colloquium "2010 – International Year of Biodiversity"

More than one hundred participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Region attended the opening ceremony of the *International Colloquium "2010 – International Year of Biodiversity"*, organized by Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism in Livno. It is necessary to note that Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism is the National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina State.

The Colloquium lasted two days. During this time, the impressive number of participants shared their experiences referring the efficient implementation of

Convention on Biological Diversity and gave, in this way, the symbolic contribution to marking the year 2010, as the International Year of Biological Diversity.

In his opening speech, Mr. Nevenko Herceg, Minister of the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism emphasized the aim of the Colloquium – it was the actualization of the need for stronger protection of natural values and biological diversity on both the local and regional level, as well as the strengthening of public awareness about importance of biological diversity protection for the life on the Earth and economic development of each community. Minister Herceg also said that continual commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina would be the sustainable development of natural values as an important factor for sustainable economic development, and national contribution to the world efforts to provide the sustainable usage, protection and improvement of natural resources for the purpose of the long-term development at the global and regional levels. Mr. Herceg highlighted that, besides reformed legislation, the Strategy with the Action Plan for Biological and Landscape Diversity Protection was done. The aims of this strategic document could be summarized in three main directions:

- reduction of the biological diversity loss by establishment of protected areas,
- setting up the system of conservation and sustainable usage of biological diversity,
- long-term reduction of the pressure on biological diversity.

International Colloquium "2010 – International Year of Biodiversity" was the opportunity in which the implementation of Convention of Biological Diversity was discussed from the standpoints of regulatory and scientific bodies at high international level.

At the end of the working part of the International Colloquium "2010 – International Year of Biodiversity", participants adopted the following conclusions:

1. Strengthen the existing institutional models for nature management and establish the necessary professional referral institutions;
2. Strive for the implementation of the Strategy of Biological and Landscape Diversity and other provisions related to nature protection at all levels of government;
3. Strengthen the regional cooperation, as well as the cooperation with relevant international institutions like WWF, UNDP, IUCN, GEF are, in development and implementation of the joint projects; it is necessary to implement Natura 2000, applying the experiences of the countries with positive practice in implementation of Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora and Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds;
4. Having in mind the regional reaches of biodiversity, all participants of the Colloquium committed to undertake the needed measures for carrying out the conclusions of COP-10/CBD referring the enlargement of the surface of the protected areas, fight against the invasive species and strengthening the public awareness about needed biodiversity protection and implementation of Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora and Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds.

b) Fourth Eco-Camp of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2010

In order to mark the International Year of Biological Diversity, Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism organized the *Fourth Eco-Camp of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2010* that started in front of National Museum in Sarajevo, on June 15, 2010.

On occasion of the opening ceremony of the Fourth Eco-Camp of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2010, it was emphasized that the main objects of the Fourth Eco-Camp of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2010, would be:

- rising the public awareness about importance of biodiversity and about consequences of its loss,
- rising the ecological awareness and sensibility of young people related to the nature protection issues,
- adoption of codes of conduct for nature conservation how it would be preserved for future generations.

In order to realize the set goals and to emphasize the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina as the country with the high level of the diversity of cultures that is closely associated with the diversity of all components of our environment, forty first-grade students of secondary schools from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and their expert guides visited the most important sites where they could learn about the biological diversity of their ecosystems and enjoy in their unique beauties. Those were the following sites:

- National Park "Una" – the first national park established in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Nature Park "Blidinje",
- Protected Landscape "Bijambare",
- "Vjetrenica" Cave – candidate for inclusion on the UNESCO list,
- Waterfalls "Kocusa" and "Kravice",
- Waterfalls at Pliva river,
- Pliva Lake,
- Ramsar sites "Hutovo Blato" and Livajnsko Polje.

In direct contact with nature of the selected areas, participants of the Eco-camp had the opportunity to apply the lessons learned in practice, and to learn more about the biological diversity of the areas and sites they were visiting. The programme of the Fourth Eco-Camp of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2010 indicated the need that young people be environmentally conscious and capable to undertake the adequate actions and measures concerning the nature protection and environment protection in general.