



РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА
МИНИСТАРСТВО ЖИВОТНЕ СРЕДИНЕ
И ПРОСТОРНОГ ПЛАНИРАЊА

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**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING**

**PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES REGARDING BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION AT
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL
IN 2010 – UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY**

1. Develop a National Strategy and Action Plan for biodiversity conservation in the Republic of Serbia including I, II, III and IV National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Biodiversity Convention or CBD).

Note: The Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan should identify specific projects and activities in this field.

Implementing agents: UNDP and Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

2. Intensifying inter-sectoral collaboration concerning conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity components (National Environmental Protection Programme, National Sustainable Development Strategy, Forest Policy of Serbia (2004), Spatial Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, Forestry Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (2007), Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia (present in draft version), Rural Development Strategy, National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Serbia, drafting and adopting the Strategy for Conservation of Nature and Natural Wealth in accordance with defined goals, activities and measures laid down in Action Plan for National Sustainable Development Strategy (2009-2017).

Note: One should particularly consider modes and opportunities related to the economic evaluation of biodiversity components because of the anticipated implementation of the national “Green Account” within the scope of BND. The Ministerial Conference at the 11th Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) addressed the issue of economic evaluation of biodiversity and ecosystem services with special emphasis on the need for more significant participation of science in the decision-making process concerning the relevant issues. By adopting the so-called Nusa Dua Declaration at the 11th special session of the UNEP Governing Council and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (held in Bali in February 2010), the ministers pledged to finish negotiations on the improvement of mutual congruity between science and decision making regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as to reach the agreement on possible implementation of IPBES (Intergovernmental Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services).

Furthermore, the importance and the value of numerous global initiatives such as TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity), REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries) and IPBES (Intergovernmental

Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) was emphasized. Since the process of sustainable use and economic valorization of biodiversity was recognized as the biggest challenge at the international level, preparation of guidelines for valorization of biodiversity was recommended as well as the integration of biodiversity into green economy concept.

Implementing agents: relevant ministries and relevant institutions

3. “Ensuring Financial Sustainability of the Protected Area System” - project funded by GEF, implemented by UNDP and realized by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.

4. Intensifying inter-sectorial collaboration regarding the implementation of Biodiversity related Convention (CBD), Bonn Convention (CMS), Bern Convention (The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats), Ramsar Convention (The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance), Carpathian Convention, CITES, WHC – MAB, as well as the protection of migratory species, action plans for protection of large carnivore, ecological and hunting tourism, organic agriculture in the protected areas, wild harvesting of medicinal and aromatic herbs and mushrooms, standardization of the lists of endangered and protected species, ecological network establishment, determination of environmental capacity for the purpose of implementation of the Law on Environmental Protection, impact assessment, strategic assessment and harmonization of national norms and standards with relevant international norms and standards.

Note: During the Ministerial Conference at the 11th Special Session of the UNEP GC/GMEF, it was emphasized that the forthcoming 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan, represents an opportunity to raise awareness and improve synergic relations between various international agreements concerning the environment. Also, this meeting should bring about finalization and agreement on Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS), as well as the definition of specific goals regarding prevention of biodiversity loss after 2012. The forthcoming 65th GS UN Assembly, as well as meeting of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Mexico during 2010 should be used to further strengthen synergic relations between conventions, especially in the context of preparations for the conference Rio + 20 and realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

5. Improvement of the development of ecological network Natura 2000 through realization of Twinning project “Strengthening of Administrative Capacities for the Protected Areas in Serbia (Natura 2000)”. Continued cooperation with the project “Strengthening Governmental and Private Sector Capacities for the Protected Natural Areas in Serbia and Montenegro in order to Adopt the UN Environment Programme ” created by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Implementing agents: relevant ministries and authorized institutions

6. Suggestions for UNESCO list of protected areas:

a) National Park Djerdap – nominated for World Heritage list as the natural and cultural heritage area.

Implementing agents: Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Serbian Commission for UNESCO), Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economy and

Regional Development, Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments.

b) National Park Tara (encompasses National Park Tara together with Drina canyon and Zaovine) – a cross-border biodiversity reserve as defined by MaB Committee (transboundary Peace Park: Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina).

7. Examining conditions for implementation of biodiversity monitoring in the Republic of Serbia, including determination of specific biodiversity state indicators in the Republic of Serbia as well as the identification of monitoring indicators concerning climate change impact on flora and fauna and the habitats in order to assess the vulnerability and adaptation capacities for the purpose of planning risk management activities, i.e. drafting adaptation strategy.

Implementing agents: Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, Serbian Environmental Protection Agency, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade, etc.

Note: The recommendation from the Ministerial Conference at the 11th special session of the UNEP Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum is very important and it emphasizes the significance of synergy between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Concerning the issues that were discussed during the 11th special session of the UNEP Governing Council and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, Serbia i.e. its relevant institutions should:

- Fully participate in the process of preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 in cooperation with UNEP and other states as well as in cooperation with stakeholders at national level;
- As far as the national level is concerned, synergic relations and coordination between the conventions and processes related to biodiversity and ecosystem services should be strengthened. This is especially important for intensifying cooperation regarding the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention and Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or Bonn Convention). At national level it is necessary to take action towards strengthening of mutual networking of activities regarding the impact of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Raise awareness of economic importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services among the interested parties, including the general public – consider options for drafting and printing brochures and other informative materials. As a part of the campaign “Let’s Clean up Serbia” introduction of the special segment that would deal with the raising of the awareness regarding the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services concerning both general well-being and economic aspects.

8. Operationalization of the “Clearing House Mechanism” in the Republic of Serbia in the function of exchange of scientific and expert information within the scope of CBD, which would provide conditions for adequate insight in contemporary scientific and development programmes in the field of sustainable use of biodiversity components in the Republic of Serbia.

Implementing agents: Serbian Environmental protection Agency (SEPA).

Note: During the 11th special session of the UNEP Governing Council and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the ministers also suggested establishing of an independent scientific advisory body within IPBES process that will have the freedom to independently make decisions on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The aforementioned body can be modeled according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Representatives of Spain (on behalf of EU), France and Brazil supported this suggestion and added certain valuable input. The Republic of Korea offered to host the 3rd IPBES meeting.

9. Perform additional review of action plans by adding amendments to the text or by revising it, present the action plans to the Serbian government and prepare them to be passed in the Parliament. Print brochures (Action Plan for the Conservation of the Brown Bear, Action Plan for the Conservation of the Gray Wolf, Action Plan for the Conservation of Lynx, Action plan for sturgeon species management, Action Plan for Wetlands Preservation, Action Plan for invasive species).

10. Development of the projects on the Republic of Serbia level regarding the implementation of the long-term ecological research based on ILTER network in the coming years in order to track changes in ecosystems and according to the scientific and technological development strategy of the Republic of Serbia and to establish close scientific cooperation with regional and European institutions in order to understand changes in ecosystems and their impact on biodiversity.

11. Capacity building and exchange of experiences in the field of drafting Red Lists and Red Data Books through trainings/workshops hosted by experts involved in the work of Species Survival Commission (SSC). These activities are in the context of this year's motto by which UNEP calls for celebration of the World Environment Day (June 5th, 2010) - Many Species. One Planet. One Future.

Implementing agents: IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.

12. Project : "Ecosystem Services and Local Sustainable Development in the Western Balkans" – implemented by ECNC and REC – Developing local Biodiversity Action Plans in South Eastern Europe (for ten selected municipalities in BiH, Montenegro and Serbia); the second year of the Project.

Implementing agents: ECNC, REC, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.