

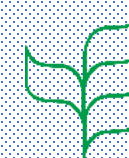
# **BALKAN NATURE TALKS**

## **UNEP biodiversity conservation activities in the Western Balkans**

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**Iskra Stojanova**  
**Western Balkans Projects Coordinator**  
**UNEP Vienna Programme Office**

10<sup>TH</sup> and 11<sup>TH</sup> October 2024  
Vienna International Centre



Convention on Biological Diversity

# UNEP WB Pillars



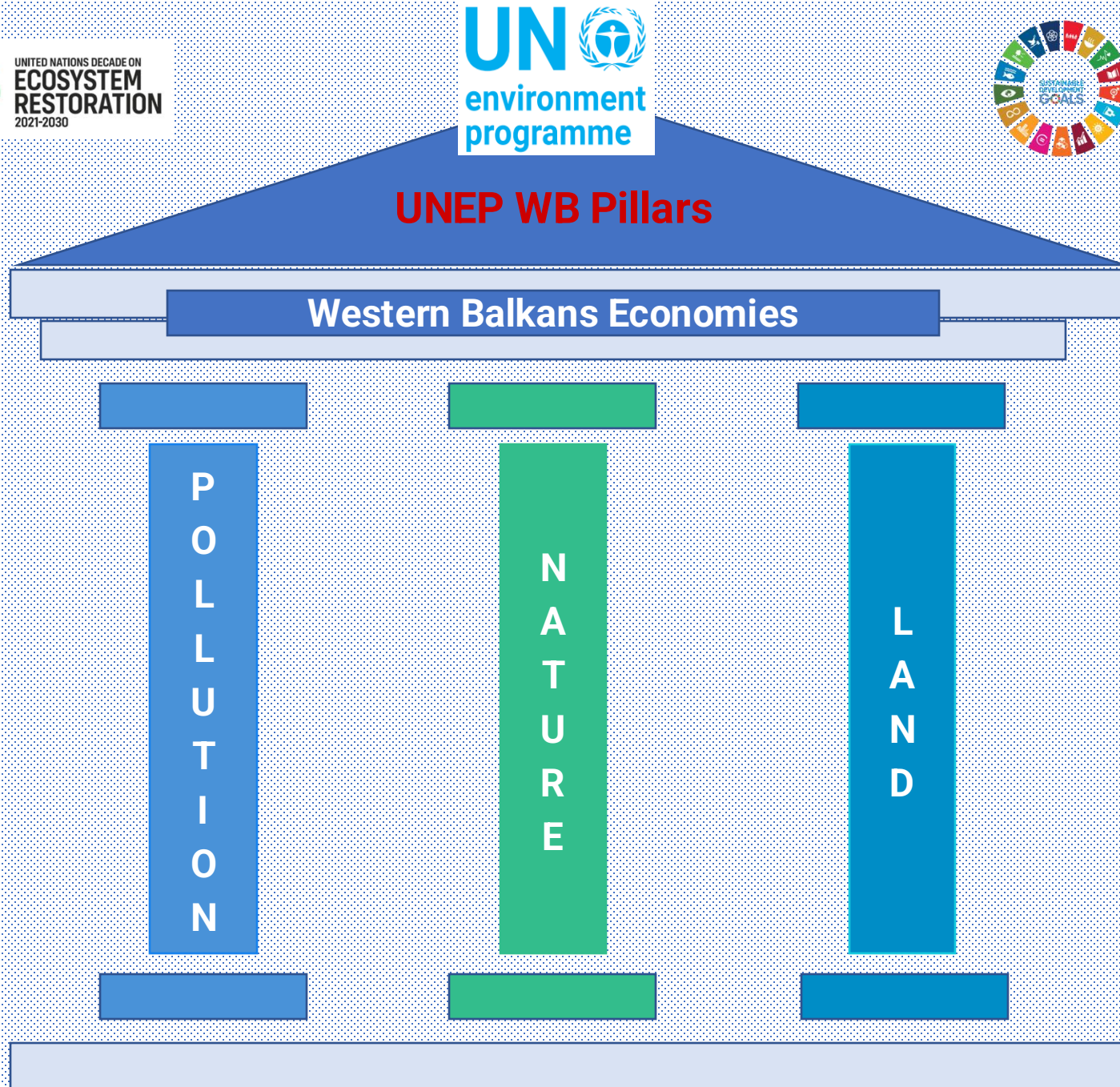
GREEN CLIMATE FUND



AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection



United Nations  
Convention to Combat Desertification



United Nations  
Framework Convention on Climate Change



## Albania

- GEF6 Project: Ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management
- GEF7 PAs project
- GEF8 transboundary project with North Macedonia (under development)



## Bosnia and Herzegovina

- GEF5 Project: Expanding the PAs' network and enhancing BD conservation
- Creating an enabling environment for LDN
- Contaminated sites and air pollution
- Early Action Support



## Montenegro

- GEF6 C/MPAs project
- Early action support



## North Macedonia

- GEF STAR5 PAs project
- GEF6 SLM project
- GEF7 PAs/Landscape project
- GEF8 transboundary project with Albania
- Early Action Support



## Serbia

- Preparing the groundwork for cleaner soil
- Ambient and indoor air pollution and health – review
- EU Green Agenda for Nature
- Early Action Support



Development/Updates of NBSAPs and alignment with GBF; CBD and UNCCD National Reporting

Regional: CMS Balkan Lynx, ClimaProof, CABAMCA, Air pollution factsheet UNRCs, including Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/99)





## Achieving biodiversity conservation through effective management and enhanced resilience to climate change in the existing protected area of the North Albanian Mountainous Region (2023-2026)

- Component 1: Enabling environment for effective management of the Albanian Alps National Park
- Component 2: Strengthening the practical experience and “know-how” of the Albanian Alps NP stakeholders to address threats
- Component 3: Support to national level adoption and upscaling of sustainable PAs management best practices







# Achieving Biodiversity Conservation through Creation, Effective Management and Spatial Designation of Protected Areas and Capacity Building in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2016-2021)

- Component 1: Establishment and effective management of protected areas and biological diversity
- Component 2: Management effectiveness of the national protected areas system (capacity building and awareness raising)
- Component 3: Biodiversity monitoring system in BiH addressing the important obstacles in nature conservation



**Poljovari upravljajući zaštićenim područjima u Bosni i Hercegovini!**

Dobrodošli u četvrti izdanje biltena za zaštićena područja u Bosni i Hercegovini!

Ovaj broj izlazi tokom obilježavanja Dvadesetog dana zaštite okoliša ( 5. juna - World Environment Day), datuma kada se intenzivno promovira pozitivno djelovanje i naponi koji se ulažu širom svijeta u cilju zaštite životne sredine.

Nađamo se da će i vijesti i aktivnosti u zaštićenim područjima u Bosni i Hercegovini biti naš doprinos obilježavanju 5. juna 2021., koji se ove godine obilježava na temu revitalizacije ekosistema.



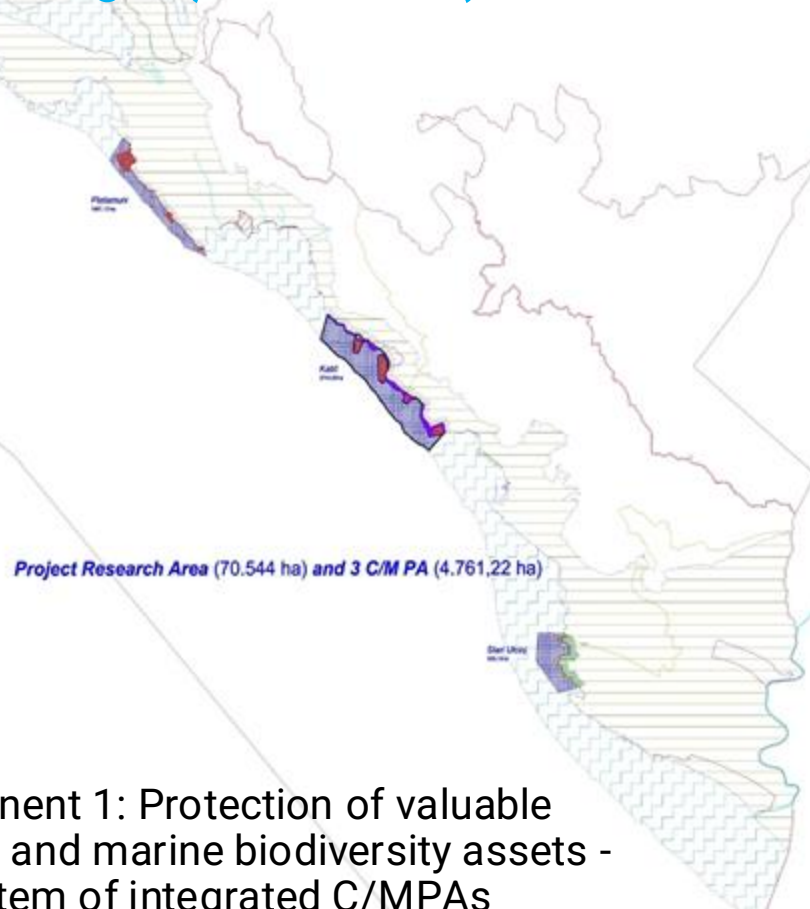
Pozivamo i sve druge članove i članice ove grupe da nam na adresu [ZP@MRE.gov.ba](mailto:ZP@MRE.gov.ba) dostavljate sve vijesti iz vašeg područja, zanimljivosti iz oblasti zaštite prirode, relevantne pozive za finansiranje, edukacije ili drugu vrstu izgradnje kapaciteta za zaštitu prirode, najave budućih događanja poput konferencija, projekata i sl.

Tu smo za vas!  
Tim UNEP-a u Bosni i Hercegovini





## Promoting Protected Areas Management through Integrated Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Protection in Coastal Area of Montenegro (2017–2022)



1

**PLATAMUNI  
MARINE  
PROTECTED  
AREA**  
22 April 2021



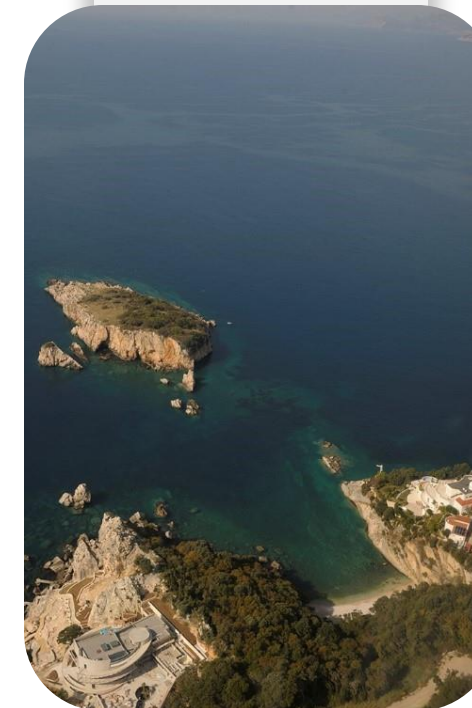
2

**KATIČ MARINE  
PROTECTED  
AREA**  
16 Sept. 2021



3

**STARI ULCINJ  
MARINE  
PROTECTED  
AREA**  
30 Dec.2021



Component 1: Protection of valuable coastal and marine biodiversity assets - subsystem of integrated C/MPAs (Platamuni, Katič, Stari Ulcinj)

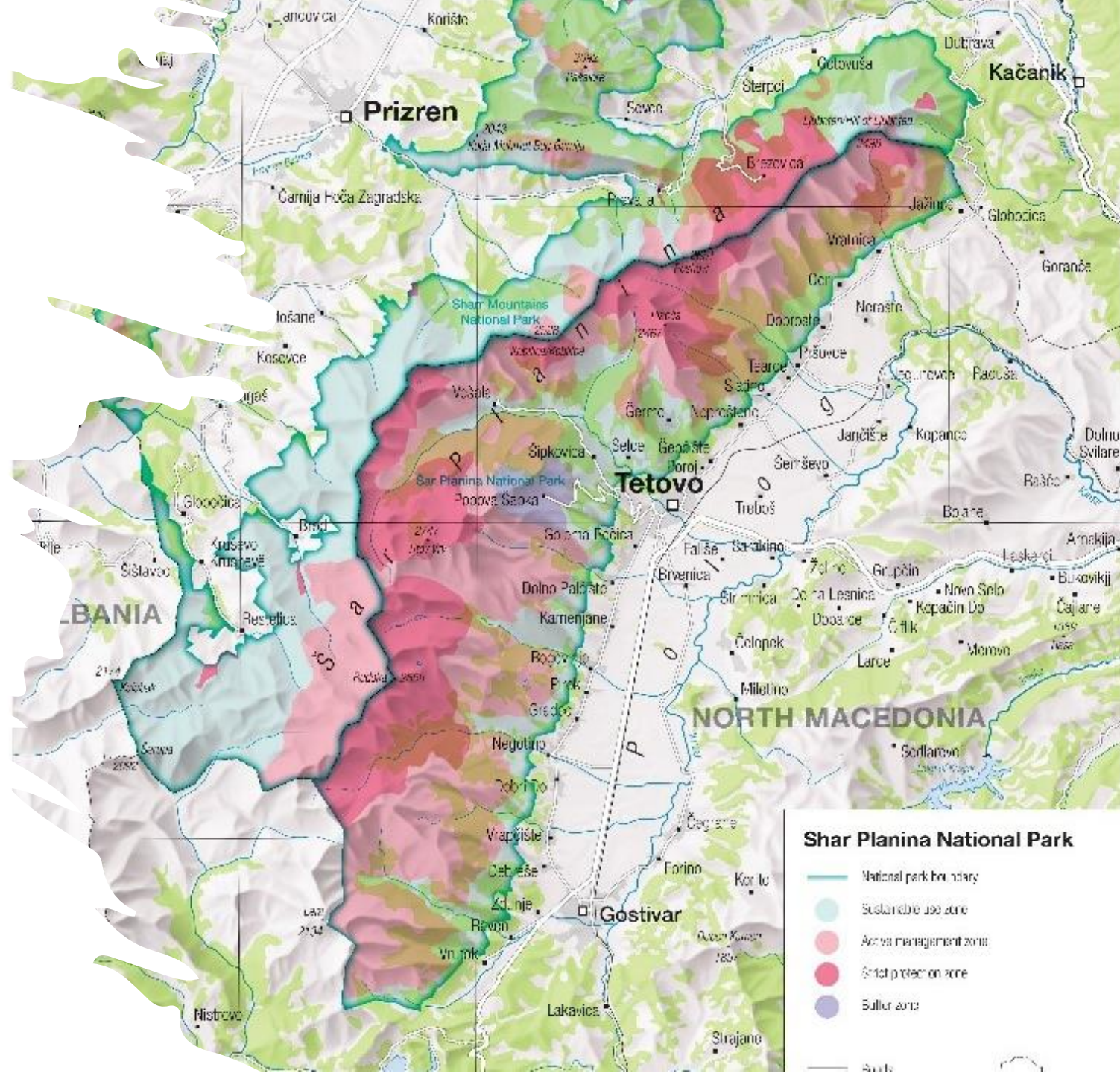
Component 2: Effective management of C/MPAs





## Achieving Biodiversity Conservation through Creation and Effective Management of Protected Areas and Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Land Use Planning (2016-2022)

- Component 1: Increased national PAs network
- Component 2: Increased effectiveness of BD management
- Component 3: Land use planning and BD mainstreaming







### Shar Mts. National Park

### Shar Mts. Management plan

### Ohrid Lake valorization

### Ohrid Lake Management Plan

### MAK-NEN Bio-corridors

Valorization study/SES  
Public consultation  
Supporting  
Proclamation  
30 June 2021

Development  
Public consultation  
SEA procedure  
Adoption

Re/valorization study  
Public consultation  
MoU between 3  
municipalities

Development  
Public consultation  
Feasibility study  
Land use planning

Large carnivores  
Two sites piloting  
Recommendations



Shar promo video:  
<https://youtu.be/GKNxgnbX4W4>



Bio-corridors video:  
<https://youtu.be/v3HZaPU-uRI>





## Red Lists and Red Books

Reptiles  
Amphibians  
Priority list – plant species  
RB update – 2023/24



## High Nature Value Forests

Identification  
Suggested management guidelines for Bukovikj and Belasica pilot areas



Bearberry video:  
<https://youtu.be/S-lfXqZM16o>

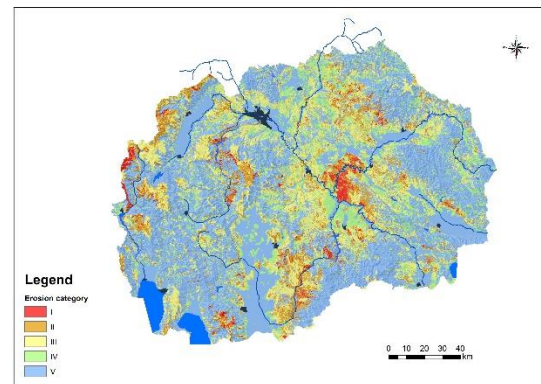
## Quotas for Non-timber forest products

Analysis of status  
Collection and use  
Testing methodologies  
Bearberry legal protection



## Soil Erosion Map Soil sealing rate database Forest vegetation maps

Soil erosion map; SOM database: Ohrid, Prilep, Strumica; Maleshevo FVMs



SLM/LD materials:  
<https://bit.ly/3E84SfM>  
<https://bit.ly/3A4njAA>

## Capacity building Awareness

Trainings  
Study visits  
Public campaigns  
Gender equality



Shar proclamation  
promo story  
**700,000,000**  
potential readers





## Biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and sustainable tourism development in North Macedonia (2023-2027)

- Component 1: Practical application of integrated landscape approach to achieving LDN (Land Degradation Neutrality) and BD (Biological Diversity) targets in the pilot area of the Shar Mountains and dependent ecosystems service area (peripheral productive landscape)

Natural Capital Accounting; Sustainable tourism/local livelihoods; BD/LD-N monitoring and reporting system; Effective management of forests and pastures within NP Shar.

- Component 2: Support to national level adoption and upscaling of ILM and related LD and BD best practices







## Protecting and investing in biodiversity and water for enhanced climate resilience

- Funded by SIDA and implemented by UNDP Country Office
- UNEP support in:
  - Role of wetlands in achieving CC adaptation and mitigation goals
  - Pilot Wetland Restoration Action Plan & Road map for gender mainstreaming in nature, water, and climate policies, building on earlier efforts
  - Identify pilot sites with high potential for CA through implementation of Nature-based solutions



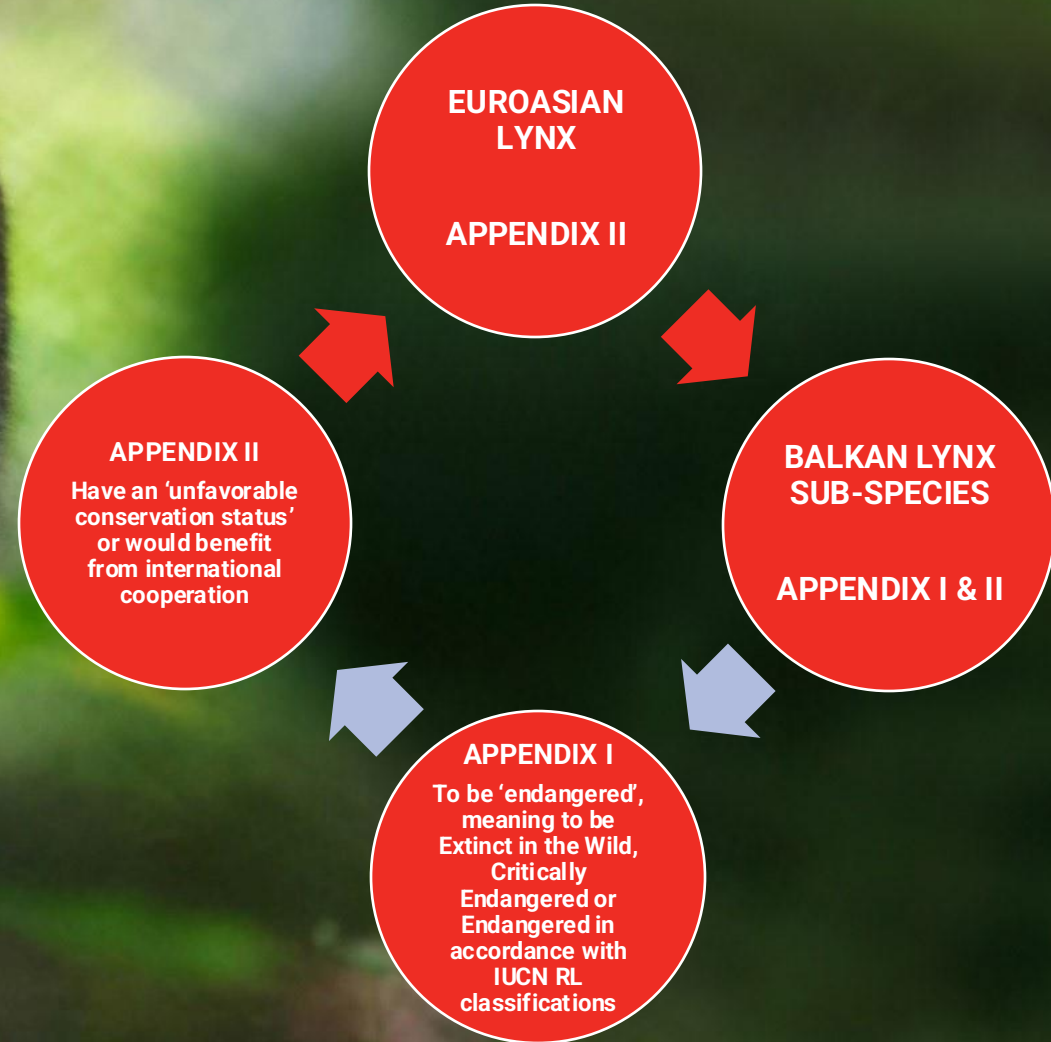
Rapid assessment and alignment of the NBSAPs with Global Biodiversity Framework Targets (BiH, MNE, MK, SRB)

Peštersko polje





# Balkan Lynx listing – CMS Initiative



Balkan lynx, *Lynx lynx balcanicus*, Critically Endangered  
Photography © Shutterstock / animalphotography



# Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director missions to Western Balkans





# Deadly floods hit Bosnia and Herzegovina, sweeping away homes



An aerial view shows the area destroyed by a landslide in Donja Jablanica, Bosnia, on 5 October. Photograph: Armin Durgut/AP



Shar Mts. –waste clean up







Thank you for your attention!

<https://www.unep.org/events/conference/balkan-nature-talks-conference>



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