



Biodiversity Task Force of the Western Balkans

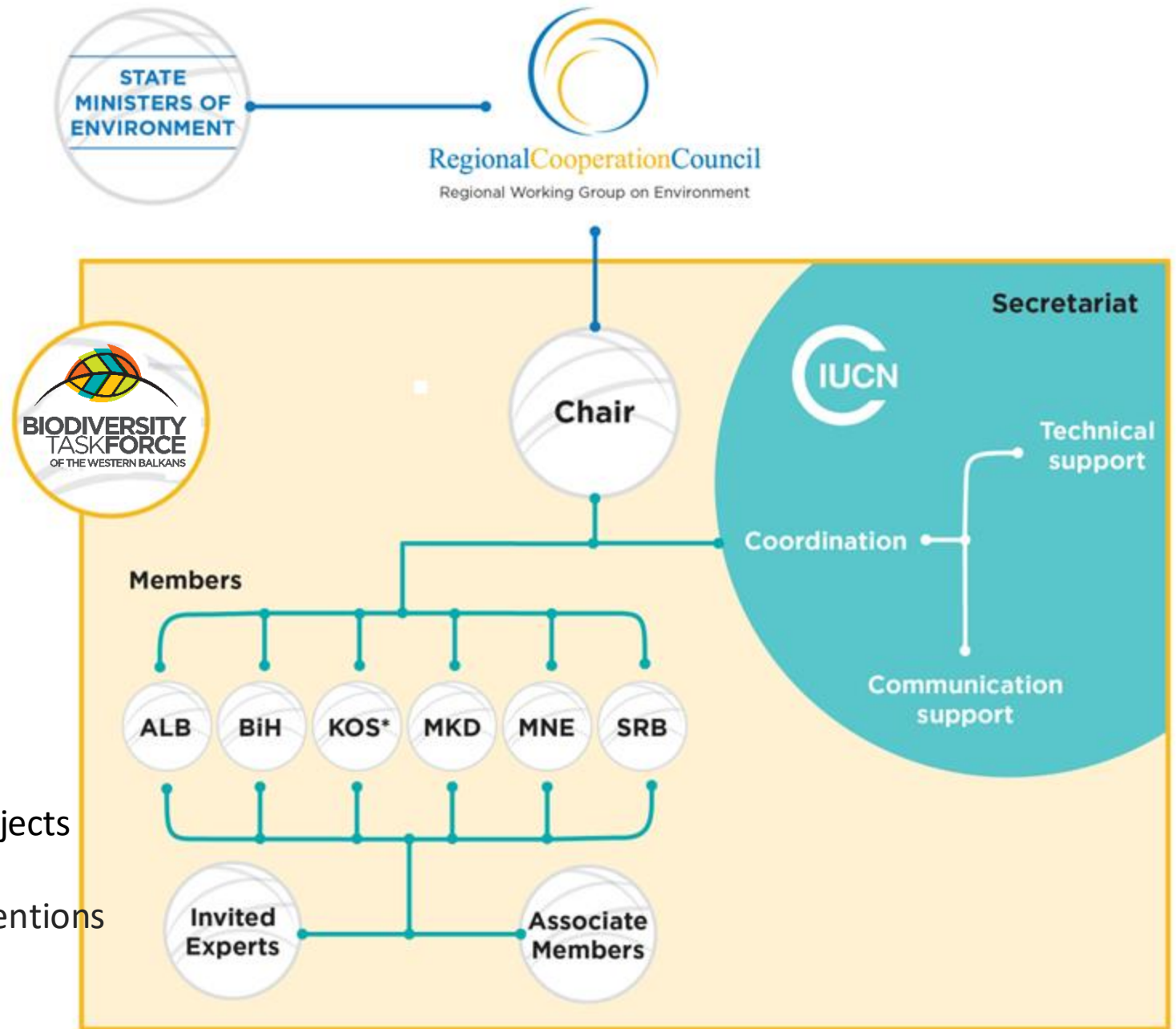
Milica Miskovic

Conservation Programme Officer, IUCN ECARO

Background

- Biodiversity Task Force of the Western Balkans (BDTF WB) was inaugurated at the **1st meeting held on 14 November 2017 in Belgrade** (with support provided by the GIZ Open Regional Fund SEE – Biodiversity) with the aim to strengthen regional cooperation on nature conservation.
- Biodiversity Task Force is **comprised of representatives of the WB6** – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia.
- BioNet – a network composed of 14 regional CSOs is an Associated Member with 2 representatives
- BDTF WB works under the auspices of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
- **IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECARO)** serves as the **Secretariat** of the BDTF WB
- The mandate and operational principles of the BDTF WB are defined by **Terms of Reference** and the **Rules of Procedures**





- Provides strategic and technical advice
- Facilitates regional biodiversity efforts
- Identifies cooperation priorities and projects
- Streamline and monitor progress in implementing biodiversity-related conventions

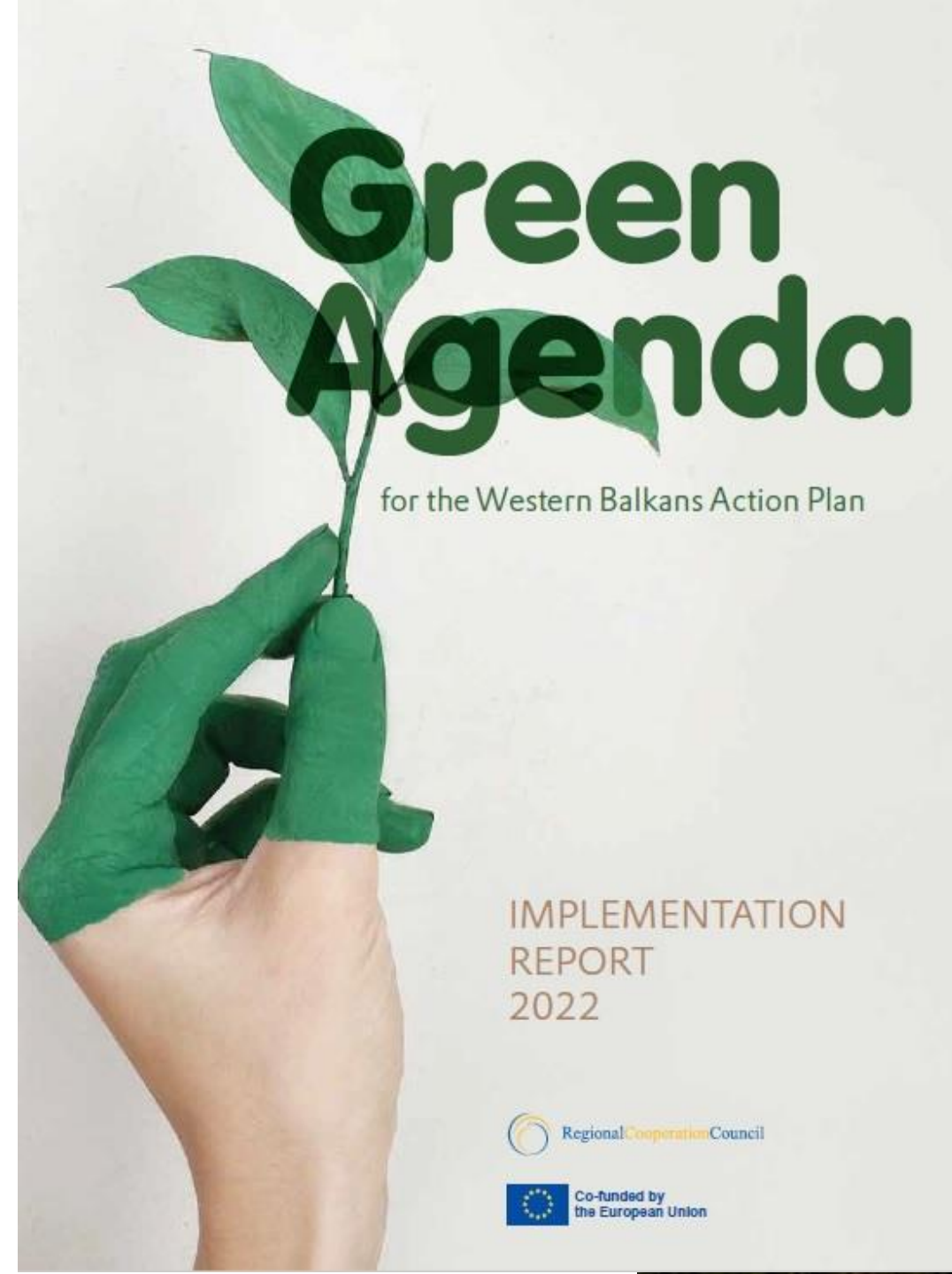
Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

BDTF WB is the **technical and advisory body of the Regional Working Group on Green Agenda for Western Balkans (RWG on GAWB)**

The RWG on GAWB is the backbone for the implementation of the GAWB Action plan, accompanied by other regional coordinators in charge of its pillars

IUCN ECARO is the coordinator for the Protection of Nature and Biodiversity Pillar of the GAWB Action Plan, and works in full collaboration with BDTF WB to implement the action points outlined under this Pillar

The most recent 12th meeting of BDTF was used to present an approach towards the development of Action 51 (Regional BSP)



Greening the Western Balkans project

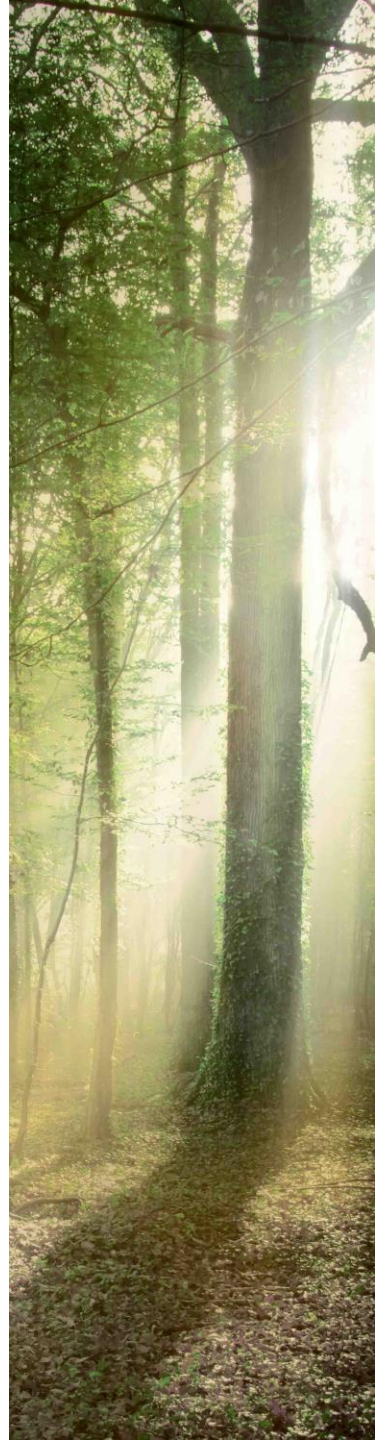
- funded by ADA with a grant of € 1,8 Million
- four years (Sept 2024 – August 2028)

Impact:

“Improved status of threatened biodiversity in the Western Balkans (WB) through enhanced planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of the Nature and Biodiversity Pillar of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans “

Outcome:

“Agreed regional conservation and restoration targets and enhanced implementation of conservation activities on the ground.”



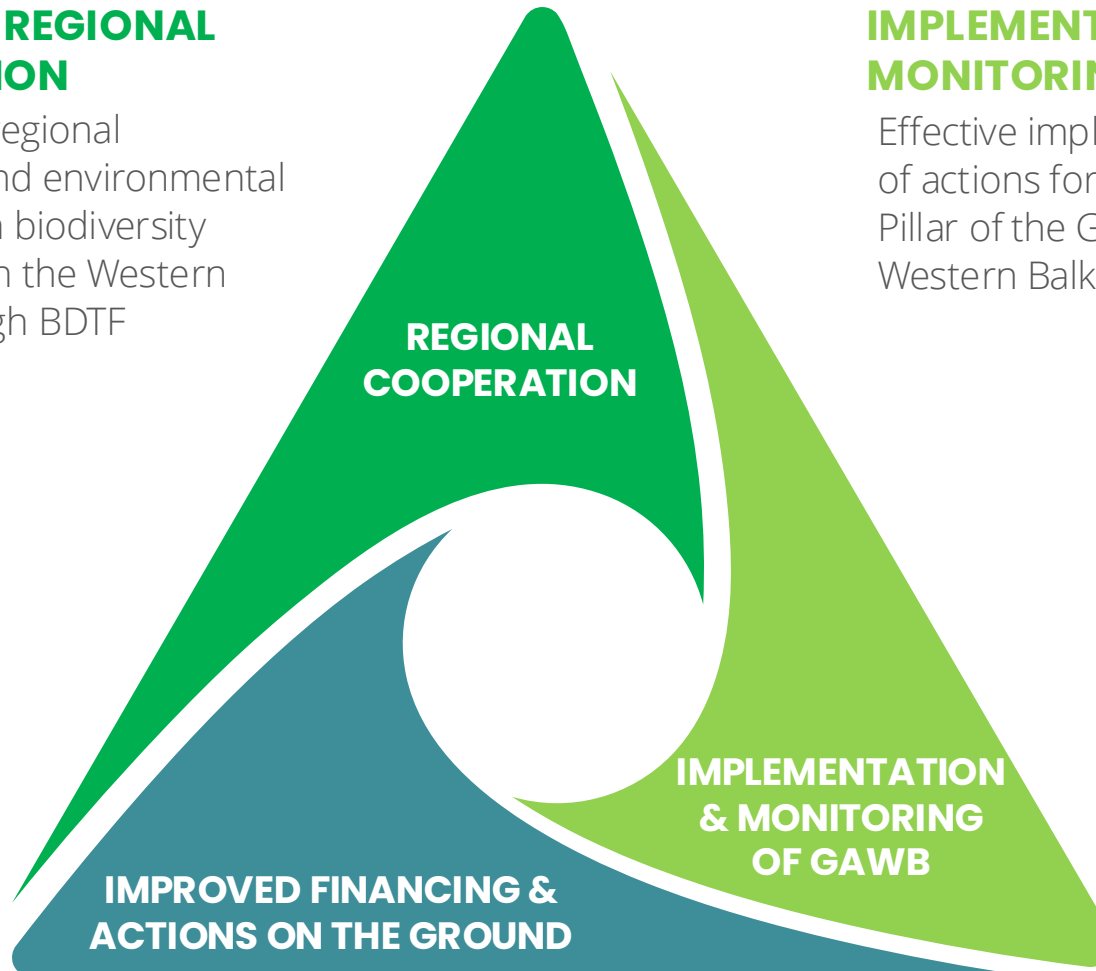
Greening the Western Balkans – Intervention Logic

ENHANCED REGIONAL COOPERATION

Consolidated regional cooperation and environmental governance on biodiversity conservation in the Western Balkans through BDTF

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF GAWB PILLAR 5

Effective implementation and monitoring of actions for the Nature and Biodiversity Pillar of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB)



IMPROVED FINANCING & ACTIONS ON THE GROUND

Enhanced conservation through improved financing and action on the ground, in-line with GAWB

Output 1: Implementation and monitoring of the Nature and Biodiversity Pillar of the GAWB

- 1.1 Prepare a Western Balkans 2030 Biodiversity Strategic Plan (BSP) – (Action 51)
- 1.2 Prepare a Western Balkans Nature Restoration Plan (NRP) – (Action 52)
- 1.3 Develop a Biodiversity Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework – (Action 57a)
- 1.4 Launch a GAWB Biodiversity Information Hub – (Action 57)

Output 2: Regional cooperation (BDTF)

- 2.1 Manage the Biodiversity Task Force of South-East Europe (BDTF SEE)
- 2.2 Review and adapt the BDTF SEE management and financing model
- 2.3 Strengthen the engagement of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in GAWB governance

Output 3: Enhanced implementation of conservation measures

- 3.1 Launch Western Balkans conservation and restoration grant programmes
- 3.2 Raise awareness and build capacity for conservation outcomes
- 3.3. Organise regional nature and biodiversity convenings



ADAPT 2.0 – project overview


Demonstrate the value of Nature-based Solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Western Balkans



Funded by the Sida, the Swedish International Development Agency



Contract value
EUR 2.32 million.



Project life time:
4 years.



Geographical scope: Western Balkans region.

Funded by Sida
Project funded by Sida and implemented by IUCN ECARO

Contract value
Total contract value: EUR 2.32 million

Project lifetime
September 2024 to August 2028

Geographical scope
Western Balkans

ADAPT 2.0 - Intervention cycle

3 major components

KNOWLEDGE, CAPACITY AND AWARENESS

Strengthen knowledge and awareness on the role of NbS in climate change mitigation and adaptation

Contribute to regional cooperation and environmental governance on biodiversity conservation

Capacity building & NbS CoP

KNOWLEDGE & CAPACITY



REGIONAL POLICY INTEGRATION

Enhance the role of Nature-based Solutions in the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

Involvement of CSO & Academia for reviewing key deliverables of GAWB Action Plan (Restoration Coordination Group)



REGIONAL POLICY INTEGRATION (GAWB)

NbS IMPLEMENTATION AND SCALE-UP

Implementation of NbS pilots

Catalyse opportunities for the deployment of Nature-based Solutions on the ground

NbS IMPLEMENTATION & SCALE-UP

Objective 1: Strengthen knowledge and awareness on the role of NbS in climate change mitigation and adaptation: Screening of the NbS initiatives, approaches and definitions, report on ecosystem benefits of NbS and opportunities for their integration into climate and biodiversity plans, Capacity building and a Community of Practice on NbS in the Western Balkans

Objective 2: Enhance the role of Nature-based Solutions in the GAWB: Restoration Opportunities Assessment, Identifying priority restoration areas and actions, supports financing through technical justification, Align with EU strategies for biodiversity and forest restoration, Guide NbS interventions

Objective 3: Catalyse opportunities for the deployment of Nature-based Solutions: Monitoring and evaluation of ADAPT 1 NbS pilots' performance, Development and implementation of corrective actions to ensure sustainability, Piloting one NbS project in North Macedonia, Capacity reinforcement on scaling-up NbS through international finance Establishment of a NbS Regional Fund in line with GAWB restoration plans



years
of inspiring
a sustainable
future



Thank you!

milica.miskovic@iucn.org

www.iucn.org/ecaro

