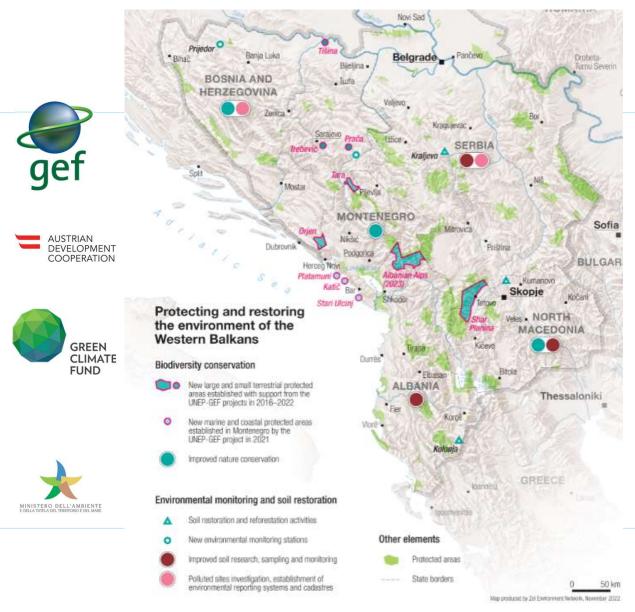


WESTERN BALKANS FORUM: ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE CHALLANGES

Regional exchange organized by the United Nations Environment Programme

WESTERN BALKANS ENVIRONMENTAL PORTFOLIO

17th and 18th November 2022 Vienna







United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change













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

10 natural areas identified in the project preparation phase

☐ Component 2: Management effectiveness of the national protected areas system

Capacity building activities for advocacy and communication of the natural values and benefits to PA staff and conservation authorities

Public awareness raising on nature conservation

□ Component 3: Biodiversity monitoring

Inclusive and functional BD monitoring system in BiH addressing the important obstacles in nature conservation





























ЗАШТИЋЕНИСПОМЕНИКПРИРОДЕ "ПЕЋИНА ОРЛОВАЧА"

ПЛАН УПРАВЉАЊА за период 2020-2030.





reactions the large control counter and grave as near as across and appearance of the counter of

To UNITE as form / Name and











National Red Lists for Species Conservation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

A guide to review and harmonisation











Promoting Protected Areas Management through Integrated Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Protection in Coastal Area of Montenegro

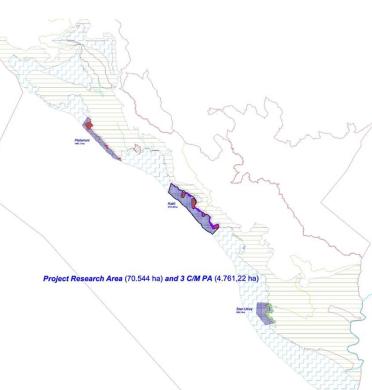
(2017 - 2022)





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

☐ Component 2: Management effectiveness is ensured in the C / MPAs in Platamuni, Katici and Stari Ulcinj critical land/seascapes



INVENTORY OF HABITATS AND SPECIES IMPORTANT FOR CONSERVATION

(a) PREPARATION

- 1. **Training**/preparation of experts for fieldwork NATURA requirements
- 2. Documents supporting field inventory: (i) General methodology for BD survey and assessment, (ii) Biological characterization (iii) Data Gap Assessment
- 3. Procurement of survey enabling equipment,
- 4. Technical **support** provided: (i) Aerial photos, 2018 (Ministry), (ii) Use of Fulcrum application (project)







(b) EXECUTION

1. Field work:

Marine part: (i) hydrographic survey (ii) (biological) inventory / survey - data collection:

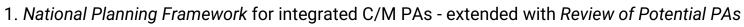
Terrestrial part: (ii) (biological) inventory - field data collection for species and habitats important for conservation (+ data entered in Fulcrum application *)

2. Data processing and GIS mapping:
Marine part: (i) Vector data processing on
SSS images (polygonization); (ii)
Processing and verification of data on

habitats and species, GIS mapping (SDF, biological characterization)

Terrestrial part: (i) Data processing, GIS mapping (SHP); (ii) Verification of data on habitat and species

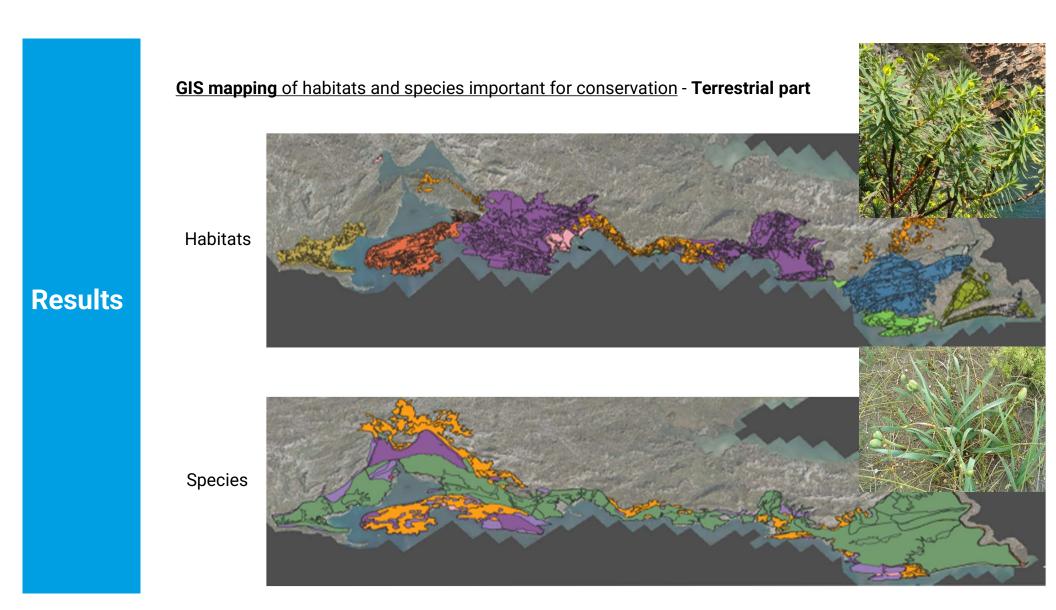
SUPPORT IN C / MPAS MANAGEMENT:



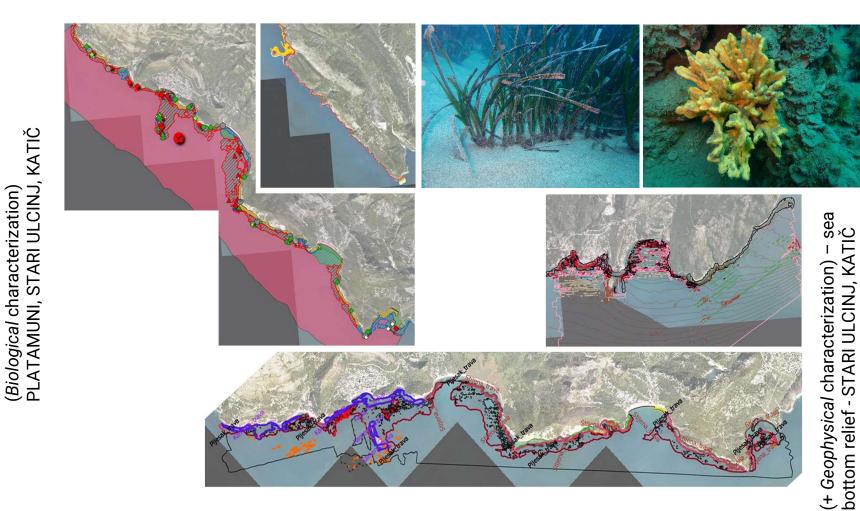
- 2. Management plans and a Business plan for 3 C/M PAs:
- (a) Trainings for preparation [of MPs, Financial / Business plan, Annual operational management programs]
- (b) Developed and consulted Management plans for Nature park Platamuni, Katič and Stari Ulcini
- (c) Business / Financial plan (2022)
- 3. Support in purchasing patrolling boat for PAs Manager "Morsko Dobro"







GIS mapping of habitats and species important for conservation – Marine part



Results

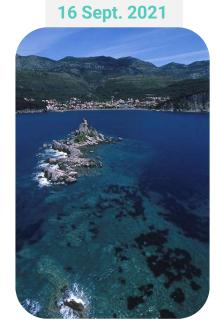
Results

SUPPORTING PROCLAMATION





KATIČ MARINE PROTECTED AREA



STARI ULCINJ MARINE PROTECTED AREA 30 Dec.2021

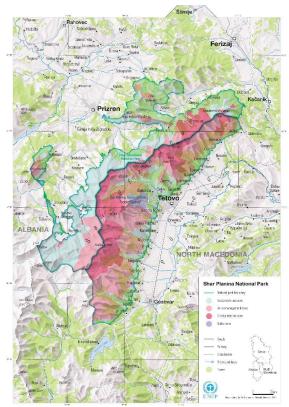




Achieving Biodiversity
Conservation through
Creation and Effective
Management of
Protected Areas and
Mainstreaming
Biodiversity into Land
Use Planning

(2016-2022)

- □ Component 1: Increased national PAs network
- Support of the proclamation process: Shar Mountains NP (valorization, public awareness, capacity building)
- Ohrid Lake Re/valorization study
- Pilot projects for managing MAK-NEN (management of bio-corridors)
- ☐ Component 2: Increased effectiveness of BD management
- Red Lists and Books of reptiles and amphibians/plants priority list
- HNVFs + management guidelines
- PA management plans + trainings
- □ Component 3: Land use planning and BD mainstreaming
- National erosion map/soil sealing rate/forest vegetation maps
- NTFP quotas + piloting
- Proposed revision of Forest Management Plans/ National Spatial Plan + trainings

















Results

Shar Mts. National Park

Valorization study Public consultation Supporting Proclamation 30 June 2021

Shar Mts. Managament plan

Development
Public consultation
SEA procedure
Adoption-ongoing

Ohrid Lake valorization

Re/valorization study Public consultation MoU between 3 municipalities

Ohrid Lake Management Plan

Development
Public consultation
Feasibility study
Land use planning

MAK-NEN Bio-corridors

Large carnivoires Two sites piloting Recommendations



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





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











Red Books

Reptiles Amphibians Priority list – plant species

Red Lists and

High Nature Value Forests

Identification
Suggested
management guidelines
for Bukovikj and
Belasica pilot areas

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

Capacity building Awareness

Trainings
Study visits
Public campaigns
Gender equality

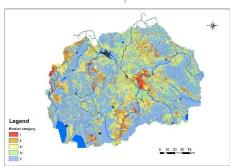
Results





Bearberry video: https://youtu.be/S-IfXqZM16o





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



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





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









Promoting
Sustainable Land
Management (SLM)
in Albania through
Integrated
Restoration of
Ecosystems

(2017-2021)





<u>Project Objective:</u> Strengthening capacity and skills of national and local government institutions and promoting sustainable land management (SLM) practices in Albania through integrated ecosystem restoration

The project aimed to address this objective through two components and three outcomes:

- □ Component 1: Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM
 - Outcome 1.1: Shift from unsustainable to sustainable land use in agriculture and forestry sectors
 - Outcome 1.2: Capacities and support for SLM strengthened
- ☐ Component 2: Demonstrating and Scaling-up of SLM Best Practices
 - Outcome 2.1: Pressures on natural resources in at least 20,000 ha reduced through application of SLM activities









Legal Gap Analysis

Outcome 1.1

Results

Handbook /guidelines for embedding SLM and erosion control into national planning and strategic documents



Two sub-legal acts for the new law on forestry: Guidelines for classification of forests & Qualification criteria for local forest staff

Proposal for a new grazing system

Priority indicator monitoring system for sustainable forest and pasture management



Higo://www.forestewinge.org/sites/defaul/files/Updated_panEuropean_indicators_SFM_2015 Historystemat/stad_minim_maned list, incl. New siteman_pot, incl. Same sidem (intiting_paning, fire, incl

National and local institutions -Ossiach, **Austria**

Results

Outcome

1.2



April 2019





2 days training -**National Institutions** - Tirana, Albania

Jun. 2021





2 days training - Regional and local resource managers -Kolonja, Albania

Jul. 2021





Farming households -Kolonja, Albania

2020 - 2021



World Soil Day, International Forest Day, World Environment Day



Three promotional videos -broadcasted in local media, and showcased in social media periodically



Project webspace – Kolonja Municipality Official Website



Office in Kolonja
Municipality –
showcasing
Promotional Material



Outreach









Mapping across
22,000 ha of degraded
forest and
pasturelands

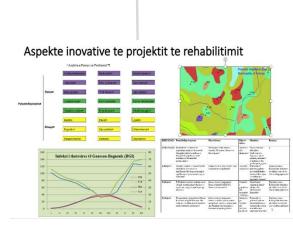


Rehabilitation plan for 120 ha of the most degraded forest and pastures



Reforestation at Perroi Varishtes and rehabilitation at Kabash forest







Results

Outcome 2.1

Promoting
Sustainable Land
Management (SLM)
through Strengthening
Legal and Institutional
Framework, Capacity
Building and
Restoration of the
Most Vulnerable
Mountain Landscapes
(2019-2023/4)





<u>Project objective:</u> to develop and strengthen national policy and institutional capacity for SLM and to contribute to achieving the national land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets with integrated landscape management in northwestern mountainous ecosystems of North Macedonia

- ☐ Component 1: Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM
- Outcome 1.1. Addressing gaps and weaknesses in the land use and land degradation policy, legal and regulatory framework to accelerate the achievement of LDN
- Outcome 1.2. Trained national and municipal resource managers to integrate SLM/SFM in LDN, in coordination with the NCSD
- □ Component 2: Sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of LD in 3 pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)
- Outcome 2.1. Local governments in North Macedonia apply practical methods, approaches and practices for halting or reversing land degradation and deforestation beyond the pilots
- ☐ Component 3: Knowledge management and public awareness
- Outcome 3.1. Private sector land developers and users apply SLM/SFM best practices for mitigating erosion and degradation applicable for North Macedonia

ONGOING ACTIVITIES







ASSESSMENT AND MAPPING OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICE VALUES CHANGE





FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS AND ROADMAP FOR LAW ON SOIL PROTECTION







Creating an Enabling
Environment to Support
LDN Target
Implementation
Through
Strengthening
Capacities and
Establishing an LDN
Monitoring and
Reporting System in
Bosnia and
Herzegovina

(2022)







<u>Project Objective:</u> to foster a coherent policy environment and track progress towards achieving the national LDN targets

- □ Component 1: Creating an enabling environment for LDN
- Outcome 1.1: Improved institutional, legal and policy framework for LDN implementation
- Outcome 1.2: Enhanced LDN target implementation capacity of relevant stakeholders
- □ Component 2: Establishing LDN monitoring and reporting system and development of LDN roadmap
- Outcome 2.1: LDN monitoring and reporting capacity improved at national and sub-national levels to support LDN in production landscapes in line with the Global Support Programme III





South Eastern Europe Pollution Platform (SEEPP)







12 MARCH 2019 Nairobi, Kenya Presentation at UNEA 4





4-5 DECEMBER 2018, Belgrade, Serbia

Ministerial Conference on Innovative Solutions to Pollution in South East Europe



24-25 JUNE 2019, Vienna, Austria

Platform Sub-Regional Consultation Meeting. Identification of SEEPP priorities: Environment and Health; Rule of Law











FEBRUARY 2019 - 2021

SEE-CEING Project (kick off) exchange environmental info and good practices



South Eastern Europe Pollution Platform (SEEPP)







OCTOBER 2021 Webinar Polluter Pays Principle



February - March 2022 UNEA 5





2023

JUNE 2021 – Webinar Environment and Health





November – December 2021 UNEP-EU Policy Dialogue on Zero Pollution



2022 Waste study



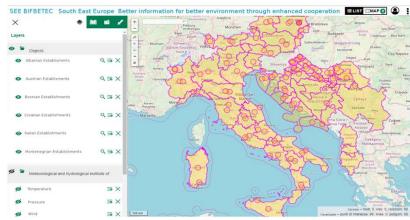


- Expanding knowledge and support an evidenced-based decision making process to improve the environment and human health
- Environment and health sector engagement and coordination
- Inter-sector / Inter-country cooperation and engagement and transboundary coordination
- Improve monitoring and reporting mechanisms at national and regional level on health trends associated with exposure to environmental pollution and its sources

Improve risk assessment and management procedures, effectiveness of the responses

• Define corporate responsibilities





South East Europe Platform to Beat Pollution -

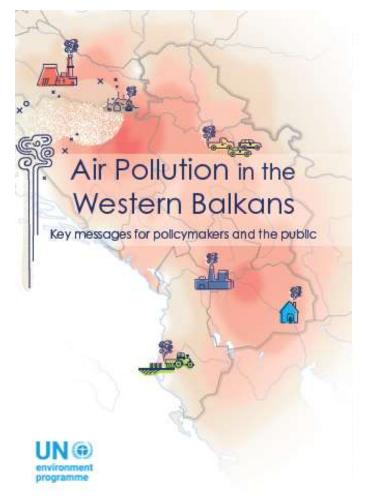


Overarching framework for coordinated action and implementation of pollution prevention activities



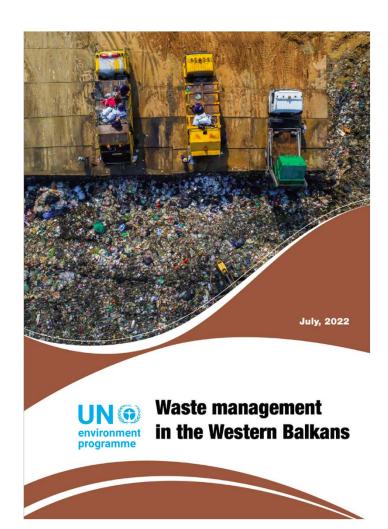


https://www.unep.org/regions/europe/our-projects/equipping-southeastern-europe-join-forces-and-bethttps://www.seepollutionplatform.org

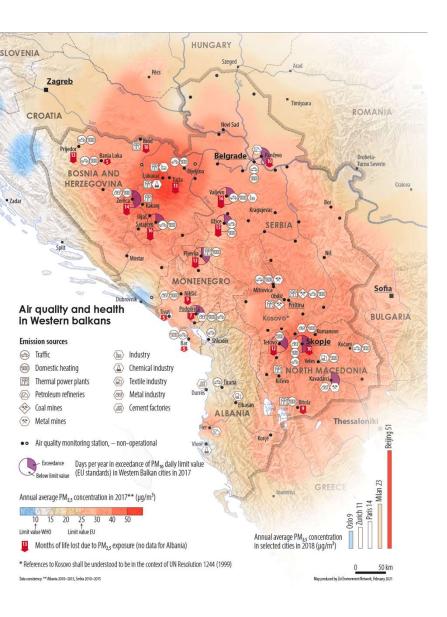




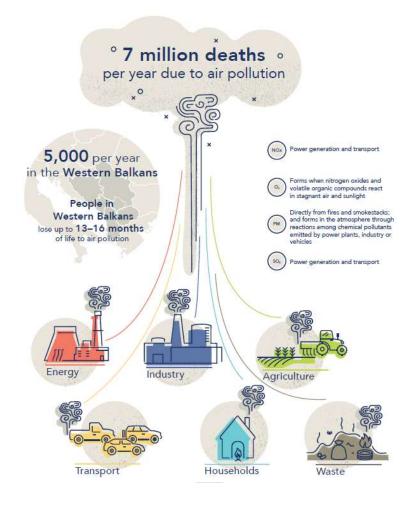




Collaboration with WHO



First regional study that quantifies the impact of air pollution on human health, considering 19 representative towns and cities across the region





Introducing stricter emission standards for vehicles, power plants and large- and smallscale industry

Requiring industry to reduce and eliminate emissions of harmful air pollutants -

- highly polluting industrial facilities such as coke ovens, smelters, refineries, cement plants and brick kilns

Monitoring and raising awareness of air pollution by publishing air quality

> monitoring data and promoting awareness campaigns

Assistance follow up



Supporting the renewable energy sector and promoting the reduction of fossil fuel use to generate electricity

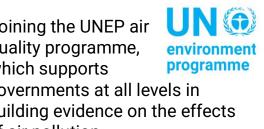
Informing citizens of the health risks associated with air pollution

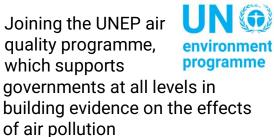


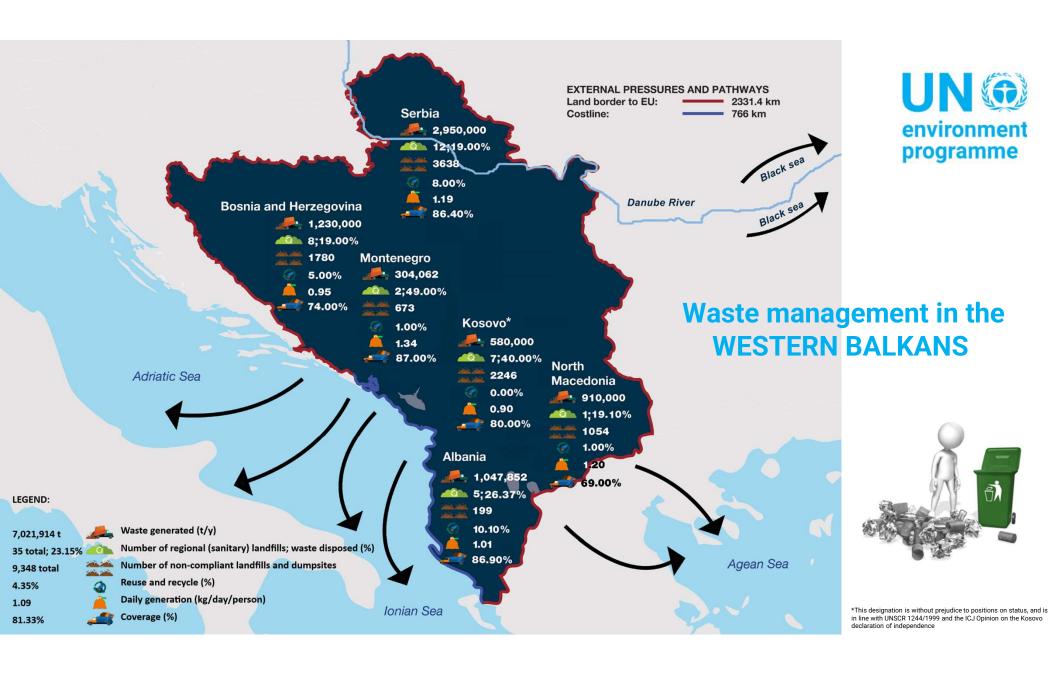
Establishment of a stronger environment and health nexus

Enabling citizens to switch to cleaner heating and cooking technologies

Creating national, regional and international frameworks to address the environmental challenges







Waste management in the WESTERN BALKANS

Opportunities

environment programme

Data

Limited functional data management systems; limited, incomplete, inaccurate reporting; greenwashing; no measurement equipment

data recovery (re)use

Slow adoption, no understanding of what does legislation entails; outdated planning documentation; lacking measurable and achievable goals; legislation inapplicable and /or unenforced



Lower pressures

Awairness

Economy

No landfill taxes, low landfill disposal fees Public utilities – not financially stable; no investments, no circular economy understanding/model

Capacities

Insufficient human and infrastructure capacities; No Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) systems (except BiH and Serbia); no developed internal waste market



Enhanced Crosssectoral Land Management through Land Use Pressure Reduction and Planning in Serbia (2015-2021)





- ☐ Project Objective: Preparing the groundwork for cleaner soil
- ☐ Component 1: Improved institutional, policy and science cooperation in integrated land use planning
- ☐ Component 2: Support for local authorities and communities in planning and implementing integrated natural resources management
- ☐ Component 3: Capacity building, awareness raising and information sharing

Promotional video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PgZGmdObYZI



UNEP activities on Air Pollution in Serbia

Heat and Health

- □ Ambient and indoor air pollution and health review of available data
- □ Desk analysis on policy framework for energy poverty in Serbia (including gender aspects)
- □ Focus group discussions



HEAT AND HEALTH

Knowledge products on health and air pollution stemming from the inefficient combustion of household devices for solid fuel-burning

Waste disposal and air pollution

Nature based solutions for enhanced resilience to COVID19 and urban air pollution in the Western Balkans and Central Asia







UNEP activities on Air Quality in Serbia

Programming framework:

- Pillar 1: Policies and standards resulting in air quality in line with EU and national regulatory standards developed
- Pillar 2: Capacities to implement air quality policies and eco design standards for heating devices developed and enhanced
- □ Pillar 3: Subsidy schemes calibrated, replacement programme designed and implemented
- Pillar 4: Increased understanding and awareness and knowledge about the benefits of air quality policies and eco standards for domestic heaters

UN Joint Programme on Air Pollution from Domestic Heating – DRAFT

THEMATIC SUBGROUP OF RESULTS GROUP 1 UNDER THE UNSD COOPERATION FRAMEWORK 2021-2025

SEPTEMBER 20:



Thank you for the attention!

Western Balkans team in UNEP Vienna Programme Office:

sonja.gebert@un.org iskra.stojanova@un.org elena.stefanoni@un.org

National Project offices in the Western Balkans:

Albania: valmira.bozgo@un.org
BiH: matea.grabovac@un.org

Montenegro: vasilije.buskovic@un.org

North Macedonia: metodija.sazdov@un.org, fjolla.halili@un.org, liljana.dinev@un.org

Serbia: aleksandra.siljictomic@un.org

UNEP consultant on pollution and waste: Maja Colovic-Daul

Vienna International Centre PO Box 500 A 1400 Austria

www.unep.org



Enhancing Environmental Performance and Climate Proofing of Infrastructure Investments in the Western Balkan Region from an EU integration perspective

Sonja Gebert UN Environment Programme











Objective:

To reduce vulnerability of road infrastructure to climate change in the Western Balkan by mainstreaming EU best practices on climate proofing infrastructure and green infrastructure















Project duration



24.10.2017

5 years

Western Balkans



Component 1

Strengthening national capacities to understand climate change and related risks in the region through improvement of the information base

ICC-OBS Tool Model Selection Tool Downscaling Tool



Component 2

Strengthening national capacities to integrate climate change projections and climate proofing and green infrastructure in the development on a regional and national level

Focus reports
GAP Analysis Reports
Recommendations for countries

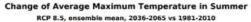


Component 3

Creating an enabling environment for regional cooperation and investments in climate resilient road infrastructure in the Western Balkans

Regional conferences Webinars Strategy for the Western Balkans

Change of Average Temperature (Tmax JJA, Tmin DJF)





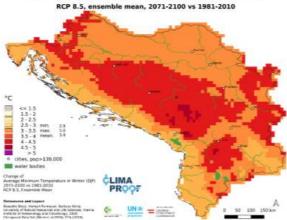
Change of Average Minimum Temperature in Winter RCP 8.5, ensemble mean, 2036-2065 vs 1981-2010



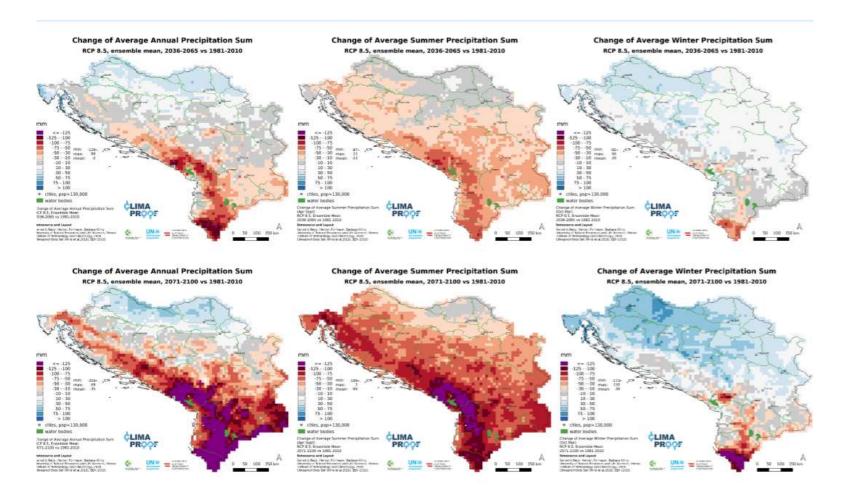
Change of Average Maximum Temperature in Summer RCP 8.5, ensemble mean, 2071-2100 vs 1981-2010



Change of Average Minimum Temperature in Winter



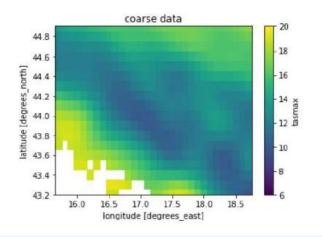
Change of Precipitation

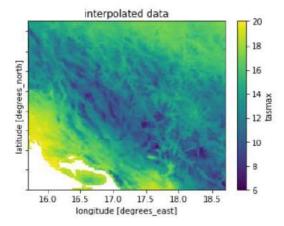


Downscaling Tool

https://github.com/boku-met/climaproof-tools

- For applications that need a higher horizontal resolution
- Easy-to-use tool to downscale model and observational data from default (0.1°) to high resolution (0.01°)









• Flooding of road surface **Extreme Rainfall events** (local or regional) • Erosion of road embankments • Weakening of the road embankments and road foundation due to standing water Landslides and mudflows Loss of road structure integrity • Overloading of drainage systems Damage to energy supply and communication • Traffic hindrance and safety (aquaplaning) Seasonal or annual rainfall (sum) • Structural integrity of roads, bridges and tunnels (soil moisture levels) • Damage of the road base due to standing water • Risk of floods, landslides and slope failures (if change in precipitation pa WITH FUNDING FROM AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION Max Temperature/ Heatdays · Pavement integrity (Rutting, cracking and blow-ups of asphalt; migration liquid bitumen) • Thermal expansion in bridge expansion joints and pavements • Increased risk of wildfires threatening transport infrastructure Drought Threats from areas deforested by wildfires (decreased soil integrity) • Increased generation of smog • Cracking due to weakening of the road base Thaw/Frost-Thaw Cycle • Increased demand for reconstruction Increases risk of stone chipping Extreme wind speed (storm surge, • Threat to stability of bridges worst gales and wind gusts) • Damage to signs, lightings etc • Trees, windmill, noise barriers and trucks falling on the road programme • Reduced vehicle control

Planning for the future climate and weather patterns



- Assessment of climate change adaptation policies and EIA and SEA procedures in place in the countries of the WB region
- Enhanced technical capacity of relevant national stakeholders to
 effectively respond to climate change related risks through climate
 proofing measures, including green infrastructure; and to integrate
 climate change projections and climate proofing measures into
 infrastructure development, in accordance with EU best practices
- Guidelines on integrating climate change in EIA and SEA procedures
- Improved awareness of both relevant stakeholders and general public climate change impacts on road infrastructure, including increased resilience options such as green infrastructure





Building infrastructure adapted to the future **\$LIMA** climate and weather patterns



- **Regional strategy** for climate resilient infrastructure development, followed with an action plan identifying concrete climate proofing measures, including green infrastructure
- **Enhanced national capacities** for replicating **EU best practices** regarding financing and economic instruments for climate proofing and green infrastructure
- **Guidelines** on **EU best practices** on economic instruments
- **Fund-raising mechanism** for climate resilient infrastructure development in the WB region
- **Evaluation mechanism for projects** integrating climate proofing and green infrastructure





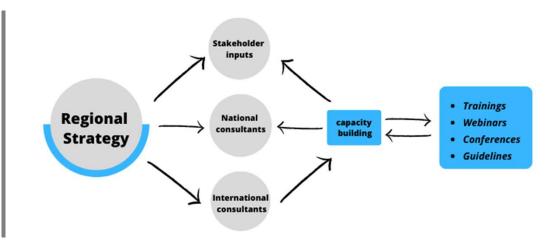






The Strategy seeks to complement national strategies and relevant WB policy initiatives by fostering the integration of climate proofing into development projects, facilitating the process of planning the climate-resilient infrastructure and selecting the appropriate funding sources.

Preparation process







Outline of the document



Climate Change Projections in the Region

Road Infrastructure Vulnerability on Climate Change

Resilience Planning in Road Infrastructure Development

Risk Assessment and Management – Case Studies



Summary of the State of Climate Proofing in the Western Balkans

Recommendations (Regional and Country-specific)

Roadmap for Adaptation Planning

Annexes: Checklist: Evaluation mechanism for project proposals Guideline on Best Practices for Financing Climate Proofing Measures







General Regional Recommendations

Hydrometeorological institutes in cooperation with road agencies to set a hazard/risk assessment methodology, including the list of necessary data for its development.

Hydrometeorological institutes in cooperation with road agencies to develop missing probability hazard/risk maps and diagrams.

Responsible ministries of transport and environment in close cooperation with road agencies and hydrometeorological institutes to set-up national integrated information systems with all data/ hazard/risk maps and diagrams available.

Operationalize institutional cooperation for relevant data collection and risk assessment

Build and strengthen institutional capacities for infrastructure risk assessment, resilience planning and mainstreaming of climate adaptation measures across infrastructure sectors

Strengthen normative and institutional framework for resilience planning and design









Measures

Governance measures (18)

Elaborated into an Action Plan which covers responsibility, indicator, relevance to the objective and area of action

Technical measures (19)

Covering advantages, disadvantages, indicative costs, timing for implementation, governance, acceptability, feasibility and technical requirements



Thank you for your attention!

www.climaproof.net



Sonja Gebert Associate Programme Management Officer Vienna Programme Office UN Environment Programme sonja.gebert@un.org

www.unenvironment.org