

SUSTAINABLE HORIZONS FESTIVAL

in the framework of project: AID 102003 - *NaturBosniaHerzegovina: protected areas and sustainable development* financed by Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (AICS)

presents the event

GREEN TALKS: BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

World Environment Day - 5. June 2024. / Courtyard by Marriott Sarajevo

Bosnia and Herzegovina boasts unparalleled biodiversity, with a plethora of plant and animal species alongside abundant water resources. The vascular flora includes about 5,000 confirmed taxa of species, subspecies, and variety and form levels. As much as 30% of the total endemic flora in the Balkans (1,800 species) is found in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Convention on Biodiversity in 2002 and swiftly adopted laws for nature protection between 2002 and 2003, aligning with the Habitat Directive and Bird's Directive.

Despite earnest endeavours to align Bosnia and Herzegovina's legislative framework with the environmental acquis communautaire, bolster investments, and enhance administrative structures, the country's protected areas remain disproportionately small on a global scale (17%). Additionally, as of January 2015, only a preliminary list of Natura 2000 sites has been compiled.

The 2015-2020 National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biodiversity and Landscape reports that the percentage of protected areas increased from 0.55% in 2003 to 1.96% in 2014, and that there are 23 officially protected areas (mostly forest ecosystems) and, to increase the size of protected areas, it recommends:

- To develop and deploy a methodology for ongoing monitoring of conditions and changes in the protected areas and their surroundings.
- To establish a comprehensive information system as a key tool for effective monitoring and unbiased assessment of the state of natural heritage.
- To elaborate strategies for the creation of new protected areas and infrastructure in environmentally sensitive zones, prioritizing the preservation of visual identity and landscape values.
- To forge meaningful connections and communication with the local community, integrating them across all activities within the protected areas.

The Event “**Green talks: Biodiversity and environmental policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina**”, organised by CISP as part of the “**Sustainable Horizons Festival**” that will accompany the closure of the project “**NaturBosniaHerzegovina: Protected Areas and Sustainable Development**” intends to be an opportunity to:

- Engage in-depth discussions with policy makers, universities, economic actors, international agencies, and CSOs to explore the themes of protecting and enhancing the value of protected areas, and natural resources within the framework of the Habitat Directive.
- Present and share studies and projects conducted in selected protected areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina focused on data collecting regarding flora, fauna, terrestrial and aquatic habitats and the development of information system models to effective biodiversity monitoring and improved management of protected areas.
- Identify concrete steps to take to enhance biodiversity protection in alignment with EU standard, encompassing regulatory framework and governance approaches.
- Provide an overview of funding tools and programmes to strengthen collaborative initiatives for biodiversity protection.

5.6.2024 **AGENDA** GREEN TALKS: BIODIVERSITET I POLITIKE ZAŠTITE OKOLIŠA U BOSNI I HERCEGOVINI

Moderators: Deborah Rezzoagli & Jasmina Ovčina

9:30 - 10:00 Registration of participants

9:40 - 10:00 Press conference

- 10.00 - Opening speeches
- Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (TBC)
 - Italian Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina (TBC)
 - Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (AICS)
 - “Biodiversity and Sustainable Development” - Jasmina Ovčina (CISP)

10:30 - FIRST SESSION

CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

- TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENTS CHARACTERIZATION of Natural Park Blidinje and National Park Sutjeska. Claudia Turcato, Daniele Duradoni, Fabrizio Oneto (CeSbiN)
- AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS CHARACTERIZATION of Natural Park Blidinje and National Park Sutjeska, Antonella Carosi, Massimo Lorenzoni - (UNIPG)
- Good practices on biodiversity conservation and protection / University of Banja Luka(TBC) / University of Sarajevo(TBC) / University of Mostar (TBC) / University Tuzla (TBC)
- SPA PROJECT- UNDP (TBC)

12:00 - 12:30 Coffee break

12.30 - SECOND SESSION

ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION FOR NATURAL AREA PROTECTIONS

- NaturBosniaHerzegovina Research Activities video
- PROTECTED AREAS AND BIODIVERSITY, GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND VALORISATION. Chiara Vicini (ISPRA)

13:30 - 14:30 Light lunch break

14.30 - THIRD SESSION

INFORMATION SYSTEM MODELS TO EFFECTIVE BIODIVERSITY MONITORING AND IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS.

- DATABASE parks Biodiversity - Audio visual manual for the use of the database – CeSbiN
- DATABASE - Fish data archive - Massimo Lorenzoni - UNIPG
- Data base models at national level - Pietro Massimiliano Bianco and Nicola Lugerì - ISPRA
- Good practices on the use of GIS in Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism (TBC)
 - Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology of Republic of Srpska(TBC)
 - Cantonal public institution for protected natural areas of Sarajevo Canton
- Q&A and recommendations for the future work

16.30

VIDEO UNEXPLORED KONJUH , Conclusion & Networking cocktail

*JLanguage of conference Italian and languages of use in Bosnia and Herzegovina with simultaneous translation.
If necessary, an individual translation will be provided for the English language.*