

# IMPEL Water & Land Conference: UNEP's activities related to Water and Land in South East Europe

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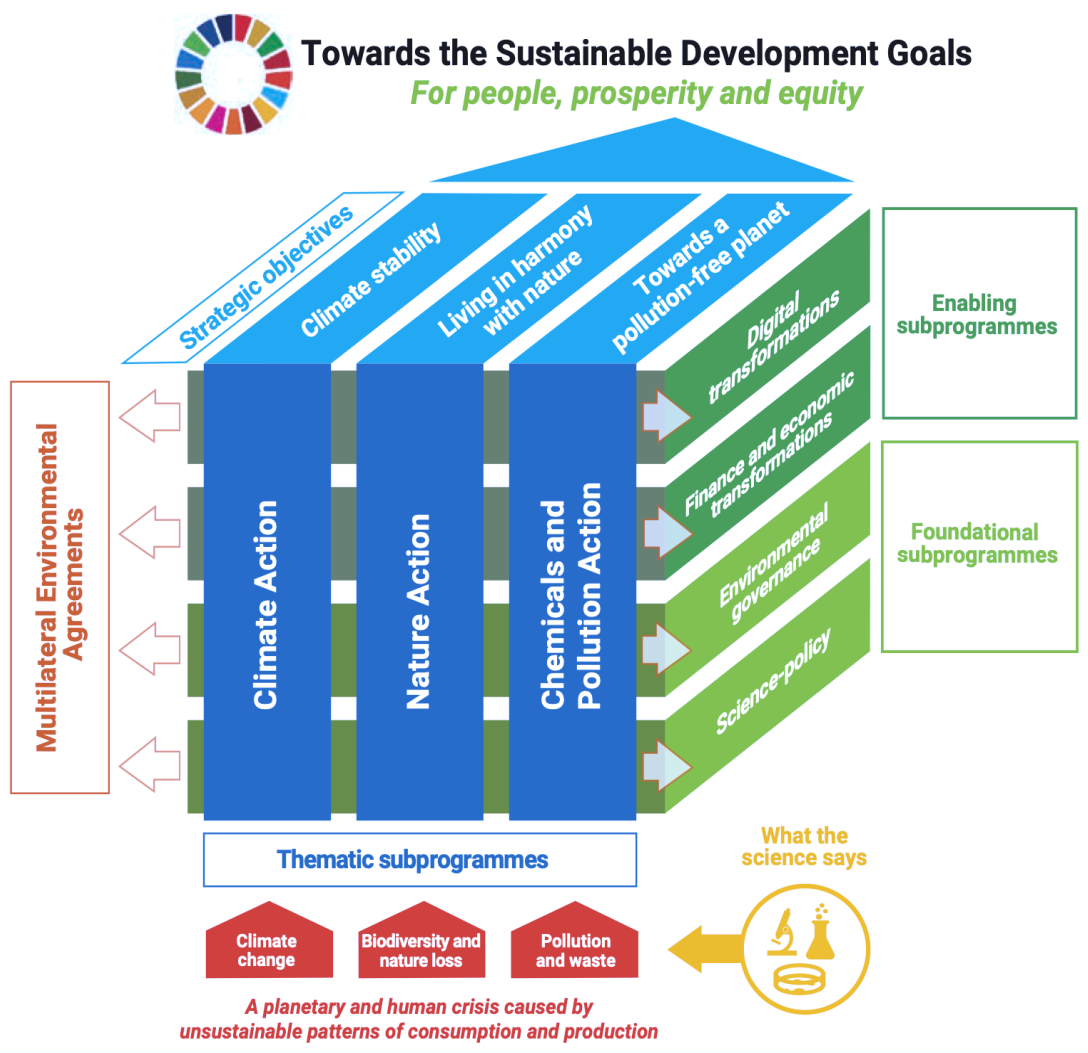
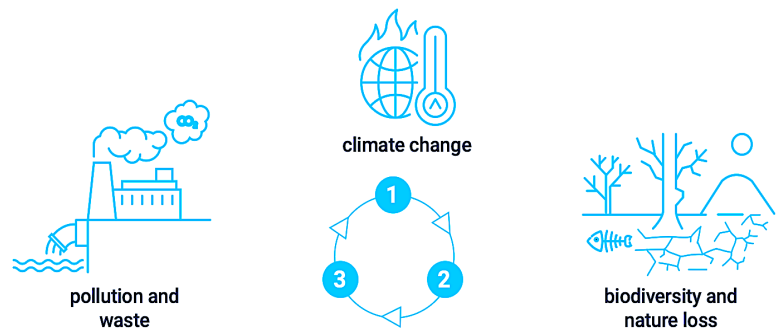
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17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
Bucharest

UNEP is the leading global authority on the environment, its mission is to inspire, inform, and enable nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

The UNEP strategy for tackling climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution and waste from 2022—2025

Three interconnected crises



## The Vienna Office

- Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
- Mountain delivery (with/for Ecosystems Division)
- Regional Desk for Western Balkans
- Strategic presence and Outreach with host country, the Alpine Convention, the Mountain Partnership (alternate Focal Point), the Danube Protection Convention, UN in Vienna...



# Carpathian Convention portfolio

## Overall:

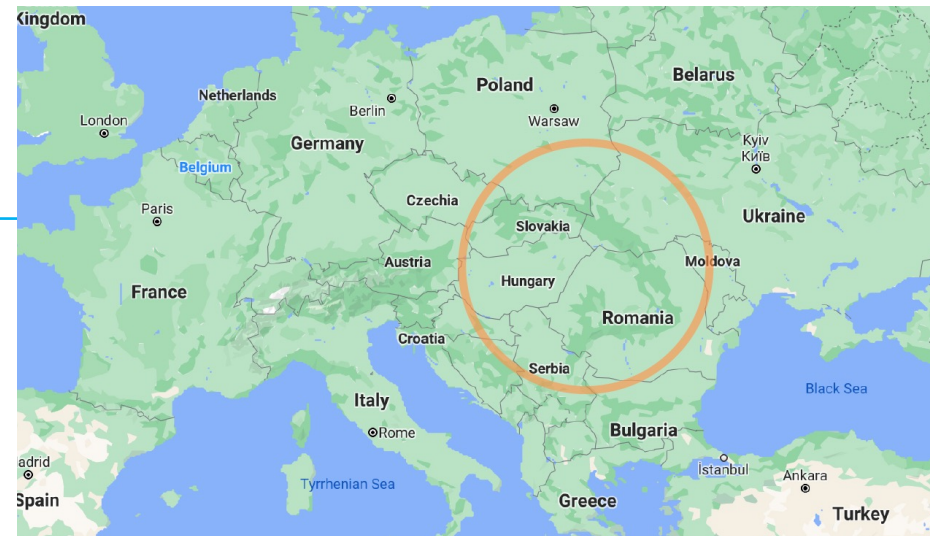
- Regional convention on environmental protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians
- Signed in 2003 in Kyiv – 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year
- 7 Contracting Parties (CZ, HU, PL, RO, RS, SK, UA)
- Secretariat provided by UNEP Vienna Office since 2004
- Parties provide limited contributions based the COP decisions

## Key sectors:

- [Biodiversity](#) (large carnivores' conservation, ecological connectivity, protected areas management and networking)
- [Forests](#) (identification and protection of virgin and natural forests, close to natural forestry)
- [Climate change](#) (assessment of climate change impact on forests)
- [Agriculture and rural development](#) (promoting and protecting traditional land use, pastoralism)
- [Tourism](#) (sustainable tourism development at the local level, improving governance systems)
- [ESD](#) (awareness raising, cross-sectoral cooperation)

## Key ongoing project :

- [NaturaConnect \(2022-2026\)](#) -Designing a resilient and coherent Trans-European Network for Nature and People (EU Horizon Europe, strategic project implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030) – the Carpathians as the biggest demonstration side
- [LECA \(2023 – 2026\)](#) -Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian large carnivores (EU Interreg CE) – implementing the CC Action Plan on large carnivores
- [CentralMountains \(2023-2026\)](#) - strengthening governance models for sustainable development of mountain areas in Central Europe (EU Interreg CE)



## Carpathian Convention COP7 - 11-13 October 2023, Belgrade, Serbia

In the MINISTERIAL DECLARATION *Empowering the Carpathian Vision 2050* adopted on 12/10, the ministries recognized the need to address air, **water and soil pollution** in the Carpathians, *calling* for specific actions on combating **plastic pollution in the watercourses** of the region. *Advocating* for implementation of pertinent measures by various stakeholders to effectively mitigate this issue.

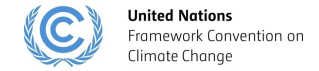
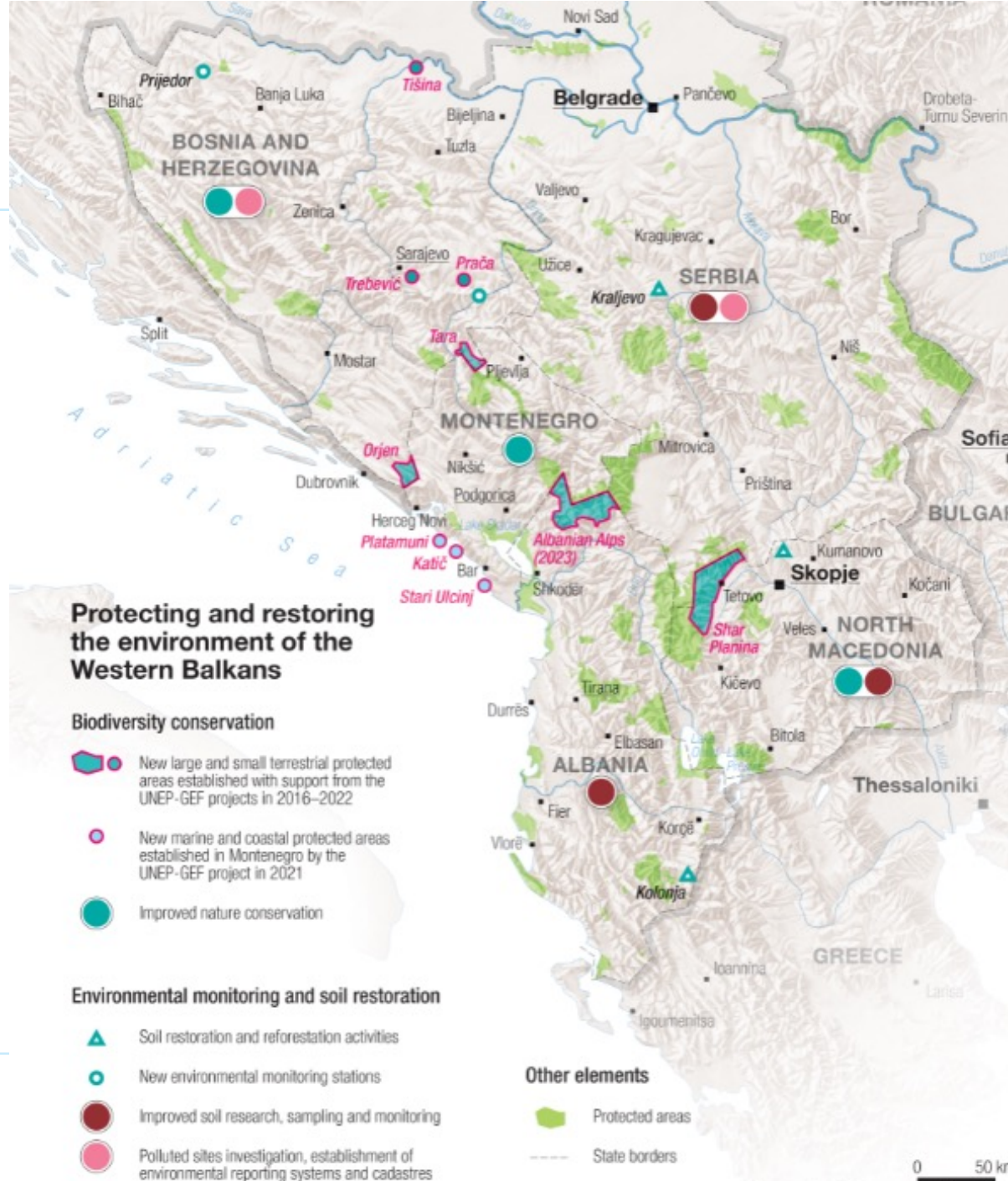




**UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME**

**SUSTAINABLE  
LAND  
MANAGEMENT IN  
THE WESTERN  
BALKAN REGION**







# Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Albania through Integrated Restoration of Ecosystems (2017-2021)



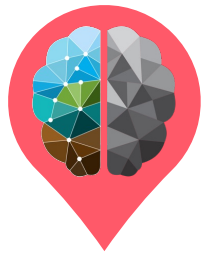
**Project Objective: Strengthening capacity and skills of national and local government institutions and promoting sustainable land management (SLM) practices in Albania through integrated ecosystem restoration**

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

# Results

## Outcome 1.1



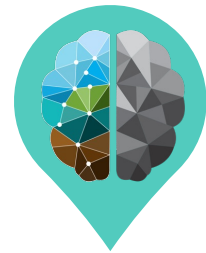
Legal Gap Analysis

May 2019



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

**Report on legislative gap analysis and recommendations for revision**  
Date 05.2019



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

Nov. 2020



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

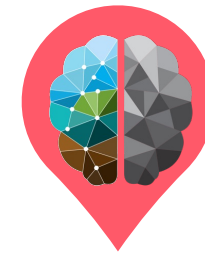
**Handbook on SLM priorities to be mainstreamed in multi-sectorial strategies and plans tackling land management**  
FINAL  
Date 11.2020



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

Dec. 2020

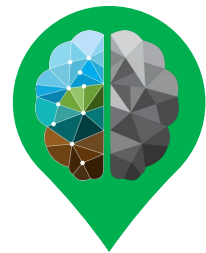
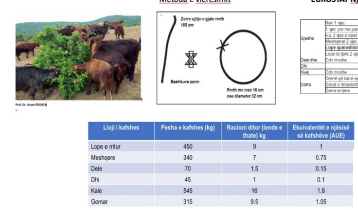
SHËNIME HYRESE PËR AKTIN NEN-LIGJOR NR. 1		SHËNIME HYRESE PËR AKTIN NEN-LIGJOR NR. 2	
<b>TITULLI I DOKUMENTIT</b>	Udhëzimi për krijimin e përgjithshëm të profesionalëve për emërimin e punësimit të inxhinierëve përgjegjës për punën në bujqësi	<b>TITULLI I DOKUMENTIT</b>	Udhëzimi për krijimin e rregullave për klasifikimin e pyjeve
<b>Titulli i Aktit</b>	Udhëzimi për krijimin e përgjithshëm të profesionalëve për emërimin e punësimit të inxhinierëve përgjegjës për punën në bujqësi	<b>Titulli i Aktit</b>	Udhëzimi për krijimin e rregullave për klasifikimin e pyjeve
<b>Neni 14 (4) Ligji për Pajtim miratuar nga Kuvendi më 2020-04-30</b>		<b>Neni 67(1) Ligji mbi Pajtim miratuar nga Kuvendi më 2020-04-30</b>	
<b>Qëllimi dhe Përmbajtja</b>	Udhëzimi për krijimin e përgjithshëm të profesionalëve për emërimin e punësimit të inxhinierëve përgjegjës për punën në bujqësi	<b>Qëllimi dhe Përmbajtja</b>	Udhëzimi për krijimin e rregullave për klasifikimin e pyjeve
<b>Struktura</b>	Udhëzimi ka pesë (5) kapituj dhe 2 Shënime	<b>Struktura</b>	Udhëzimi ka pesë (5) kapituj dhe 2 Shënime
<b>Shtesa</b>	Udhëzimi ka katër (4) kapituj dhe 1 Shënime	<b>Shtesa</b>	Udhëzimi ka pesë (5) kapituj dhe 2 Shënime
<b>Shënime / Referencat për ligjvënies dhe BE-në</b>	Udhëzimi ka katër (4) kapituj dhe 1 Shënime	<b>Shënime / Referencat të ligjvënies dhe BE-në</b>	Udhëzimi ka pesë (5) kapituj dhe 2 Shënime



Proposal for a new grazing system

Oct. 2021

Vendosja e nje sistemi specifik te kullotjes



Priority indicator monitoring system for sustainable forest and pasture management

Dec. 2021

Annex 1: Summary table of Suggested Priority SFM Indicators For Kolonja Municipality

Criteria	Indicator	Full Name from Part Europe.doc	Possible monitoring result in Albania	How data could be collected in Albania	Comments / comments on feasibility for implementation by Municipality
Criterion 1: Conservation and enhancement of forest resources and increase of the global carbon sink	1.1. Forest area	Area of forest and other wooded land classified by forest type and % of availability for wood supply and other of forest and other wooded land in forest land area	How we use % of forest cover (area forest hectares) (calculated by FAO definition) as part of a time series cover of more than 20 years and area of more than 100 ha	New data could be collected in Albania	This quality forest data to measure trend of forest status
			Area of forest and other wooded land classified by forest type and % of availability for wood supply and other of forest and other wooded land in forest land area	Non-wooded forest area (ha) (Forest cover and area of more than 100 ha)	Availability for wood supply - more than 20 years and area of more than 100 ha
Criterion 2: Forest damage	Forest and other wooded land with damage, classified by primary damage agent	Forest and other wooded land with damage, classified by primary damage agent	Area / Substrate for forest, wood and non-wooded land	By ground - checking required (observation on site)	What needs availability - feasibility depends on methodology (number of sample areas) and more than 50% sample cover and enough health measure over entire through the sample area, not just the forest
			Area / Substrate for forest, wood and non-wooded land	By ground - checking required (observation on site)	Availability for wood supply - more than 20 years and area of more than 100 ha

[https://www.forestry.gov.uk/files/Files/Updated\\_gpmtemplates\\_indicators\\_SFM\\_2021.pdf](https://www.forestry.gov.uk/files/Files/Updated_gpmtemplates_indicators_SFM_2021.pdf)



# Results

## Outcome 1.2



**5 days training - National and local institutions -Ossiach, Austria**

**April 2019**



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

**Jun. 2021**



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

**Jul. 2021**



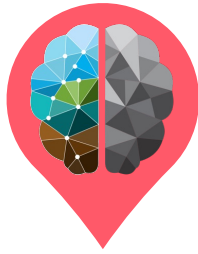
**Farming households - Kolonja, Albania**

**2020 - 2021**

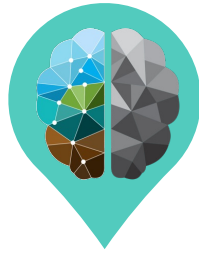


# Results

## Outreach



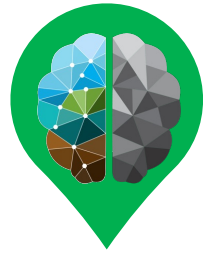
World Soil Day,  
International Forest  
Day, World  
Environment Day



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



# Results

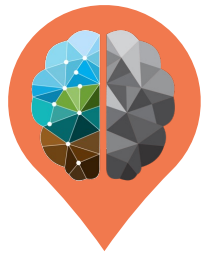
## Outcome 2.1



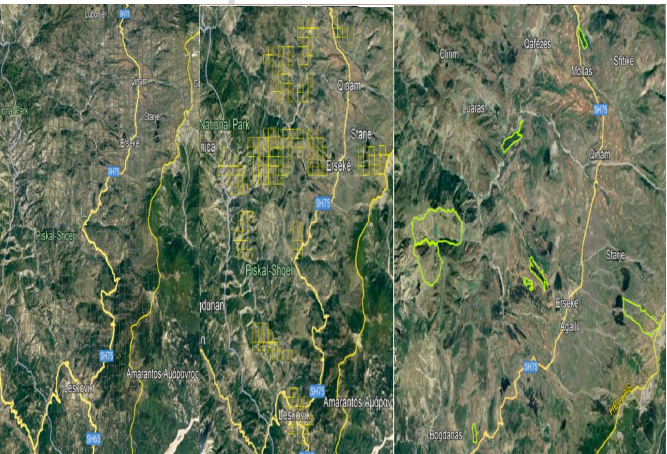
Mapping across 22,000 ha of degraded forest and pasturelands



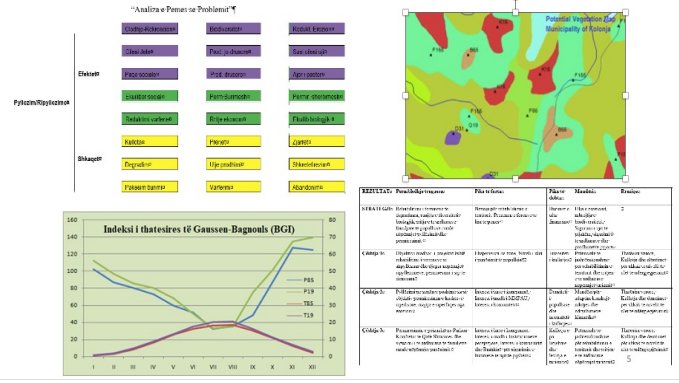
Rehabilitation plan for 120 ha of the most degraded forest and pastures



Reforestation at Perroi Varishtes and rehabilitation at Kabash forest



### Aspekte inovative te projektit te rehabilitimit




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



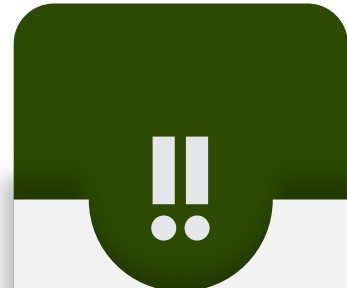
**Project objective:** to develop and strengthen national policy and institutional capacity for SLM and to contribute to achieving the national land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets with integrated landscape management in north-western mountainous ecosystems of North Macedonia

- ❑ **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**



**LEAPs WITH  
FOCUS ON LAND  
DEGRADATION,  
EROSION AND  
FOREST FIRES  
PREVENTION**



**ASSESSMENT  
AND MAPPING  
OF ECOSYSTEM  
SERVICE  
VALUES  
CHANGE**



**FUNCTIONAL  
ANALYSIS AND  
ROADMAP FOR  
LAW ON SOIL  
PROTECTION**



**EFFECITIVE LAND MANAGEMENT**



## Enhanced Cross-sectoral 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>



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

*(Upcoming)*



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

**Project Objective:** 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



## Strengthening the capacity in the management of Contaminated Sites in the Western Balkans to reduce pollution into the environment

*(In the pipeline)*

**Project Objective:** To reduce pollution, increase environmental protection practices and improve human health, through strengthening institutions and capacities of the Western Balkan Countries in identifying and prioritize their pollution-prevention and related environmental priorities, and the development of an evidence-based approach to developing policies and measures to tackle key pollution issues.

- ❑ **Component 1:** Coordination activities, data exchange, strengthening networks. Actions to improve the exchange of environmental information and good practices to be aligned to the current digital/environmental needs and establish synergies with other relevant initiatives
- ❑ **Component 2:** Strengthening capacities of WB countries in addressing pollution-prevention, with specific focus on soil and water pollution, and related environmental priorities
- ❑ **Component 3:** Identification of pilot site(s) and design of preliminary characterization plan



# Thank you for the attention!

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