



NAP BULLETIN

December 2020

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A man wearing a red helmet and a red life jacket is smiling and giving a thumbs-up gesture. He is standing on a rocky riverbank. The background shows a river and some buildings in the distance. The helmet has 'HKO' written on it, and the life jacket has 'Guardian HKO' written on it.

1

STRONG GOVERNANCE, REDUCED RISKS

Reducing climate change effects and risks in Bosnia and Herzegovina by identifying opportunities and turning knowledge into action

In March 2019 eight members of the Civil Protection Rescue Unit in the city of Doboj, Bosnia and Herzegovina, were certified for water rescue - through the International Rafting Federation, Swiftwater and Whitewater Rescue Technician training. Equipped with high quality boats, suits, safety and other equipment these are the people that you want responding next time a flood hits.

Strong governance = Resilience

We are witnessing the devastating effects of disasters. The aftermath proves that each country must act to make development efforts risk-informed and climate-smart. This year's International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is all about governance. You can measure good disaster risk governance in lives saved, reduced numbers of disaster-affected people, and reduced economic losses. COVID-19 and the climate emergency are telling us that we need clear vision, comprehensive plans, and competent, empowered institutions acting on scientific evidence for the public good.

Flooding portends a future of climate risks

In the face of climate change and other concurrent crises, strong disaster risk reduction is more important than ever. Climate change is intensifying a range of existing hazards and affecting activities associated with livelihoods, infrastructure, and economic activity. These economic implications, coupled with the risk of significant climate change, require an effective strategy to reduce and manage risks.

The importance of adapting to climate change is increasingly recognised not only by high-level stakeholders like governmental bodies and the scientific community, but also by the broader citizenry, who recognise that climate change is an issue of key strategic importance and one of the most significant development challenges facing the country.

Within different initiatives, UNDP BiH is supporting the country to ensure sustainable development that takes into account climate change challenges from multiple aspects underlines Slađana Bundalo, Climate Change Adaptation Project manager. The focus is on incorporating mitigation and adaptation measures in more strategic way, aligning the paths to get the most sustainable outcomes. Key documents are being either revised like the Climate Change Adaptation and Low Emission Development Strategy, or developed such as National Adaptation Plan, Forth National Communication, Third Biennial Report and National Determined Contribution.





Resilience to Climate Change

The importance of adaptation is clearly reflected in BiH's Climate Change Adaptation and Low Emission Development Strategy, adopted in 2013. And the 2014 floods made it clear that adaptation was an urgent imperative. In 2015, BiH submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, as part of the negotiations leading to the historic Paris Agreement, which it signed in April 2016. NDCs are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of long-term climate action. NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Through the Climate Promise, UNDP is supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina to use the ambitious scenario for National Determined Contributions (NDC) and raise mitigation goals to a 12.8% GHG emission reduction by 2030 (compared to 2014), which is in turn almost a 40% reduction from 1990 levels. For the first time the NDC for the country will develop a verification framework for climate finance including monitoring and reporting.

Turning Recommendations into Reality

The 2014 flooding served as the impetus for multiple projects, with goals centred on the development of hydrometeorological models to serve as the basis for flood forecasting, primarily in the Sava river basin. The Sava river basin flood warning platform is joined by forecast models for nearby river basins, such as Vrbas, Una and Sana and is supported by data from the European Union's flood warning system. These technical tools are bolstered by river management plans and improved governance frameworks.





Turning knowledge into action

For BiH and its UNDP-implemented, Green Climate Fund-financed project Advancing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process for medium-term investment planning in climate sensitive sectors in BiH, there is a particular emphasis on climate change as one of the most significant development challenges facing the country. Supporting the government to advance the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process and reaching the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Green Climate Fund (GCF) resources are being used to enable the government to integrate climate change-related risks, coping strategies - and opportunities - into ongoing development planning and budgeting processes. The project is advancing adaptation planning with a focus on the most vulnerable sectors - including agriculture, water resources, forestry, tourism, biodiversity and sensitive ecosystems, and public health.



COVID-19 Context

The global crisis caused by COVID-19 has impacted all aspects of life. Countries are faced with making immediate and immense policy choices and taking unprecedented action to protect lives, and to avoid catastrophic social, economic, and political consequences. As part of UNDP's organisational approach to COVID-19, the Climate Promise works to strengthen countries' abilities to prepare, respond and recover. For BiH, good national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction must be multi-sectoral, linking policies in areas such as land use, building codes, public health, education, agriculture, environmental protection, energy, water resources, poverty reduction and climate change adaptation. By clearly establishing the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders at the entity, municipal, and cantonal levels, the project is improving climate change adaptation planning.





On 13 October to commemorate Disaster Risk Reduction Day, this story showcases how the project is supporting the realization of UNDP's climate promise and accelerating the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy - reducing risks & making an impact.

Build Back Greener

When it comes to lowering the risks from catastrophes, 'The opportunities lie in building infrastructure which is missing in many local communities as well as in increasing their resilience... Infrastructure such as watering systems, prevention of fires and floods, public transport, strengthening the healthcare system, and improving resource efficiency: all of these will together eventually result in sustainable jobs and a higher standard of living' - Azrudin Husika, Professor at the Faculty for Mechanical Engineering at the University of Sarajevo and consultant on UNDP projects. By turning knowledge into action, upgrading the knowledge base for adaptation, prioritising adaptation interventions for the medium term, building institutional capacities for integrating climate change adaptation, and demonstrating innovative ways of financing adaptation at the sub-national and local government levels, the project is lowering the potential for catastrophic risk.

2

URBAN LIFE RECONSIDERED

From ash clouds and floods, to green energy and climate action, adapting to climate change means transforming cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

With its rich history and multicultural cities, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is an inspiring example of cosmopolitanism and green urban renewal. Zenica, an industrial hub where ash clouds have been known to dominate the sky, is striving towards a green transformation – combatting air pollution and proving that cities can be a locus for change. In the interior of Bosnia, the cantonal capital Zenica lies at the literal centre of the country. Whenever there is heavy rain in Zenica, locals in the village of Topcic Polje flashback to scenes from the 2014 floods and landslides that wiped out entire neighbourhoods and caused widespread damage they are still recovering from. The village’s 1,700 people look to Zenica for its key role in keeping people safe, especially in times of crisis.

The key to adapting to climate change? Local communities.

Since the devastating floods six years ago, some river and stream basins were modified to accommodate stormwater overflows, but this amounts to a temporary solution. Early last year, a code red alarm was triggered when the Starinski stream rose to critical levels after organic matter blocked its flow down to the river Bosna. 'Heavy machinery that we needed was brought. The riverbed was continuously cleaned for two days and two nights. In the riverbed, which is almost four metres deep, there was [only] 30cm left for it to be full and cause a catastrophe. It was in the last moment, but it was the city administration that came to help clean up', recalls Suad Skopljak, Topcic Polje community president. City administrations usually have small budgets that do not allow for major infrastructural projects. However, as Skopljak explains, the local city government is the first point of contact when people are in need.





Industrial city goes green

When it comes to climate-induced disaster risk, secondary watercourses are the gravest problem in Zenica. Jakuta Imsirovic, expert associate for protection of the environment with the City of Zenica, explains how people who live by the rivers and those who cultivate the lands near them are the most endangered category of citizens when it comes to exposure to natural disasters. She adds that the city administration has limited options and a somewhat narrow role, both financial and by jurisdiction, but that the city is endeavouring to complete large-scale project activities to clean the river beds, develop projects that will regulate wastewater, transform municipal heating to stop using coal, and various green renewal activities such as tree planting (initiated by UNDP's Go Green Initiative in 16 municipalities – including Zenica – throughout BiH), increasing the energy efficiency of residential buildings in the urban area, and facilitating bicycle use. 'The problem we have is that this is a valley and villages are up the surrounding hills, and each time the snow and ice melt waters cascade down', Imsirovic says. 'It could be slowed down with retention basins, building barriers and other technical tools'.

As a mechanical engineer, Ms Imsirovic explains how through the implementation of the UNDP's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) project, financed by Green Climate Fund, there are efforts to systematically map existing climate change issues and prepare the requisite documentation to seek donor assistance, as the city is financially strapped and cannot solve all of its problems without help. Ms Imsirovic emphasises the need to recognise the area's problems and start matching them with long-lasting solutions, using a strategic approach. BiH's NAP project has initiated pilot projects in Zenica and Laktasi to develop an innovative strategy for financing climate change adaptation activities. The first online trainings on financial modelling of municipal creditworthiness and long-term financial budget planning for climate change adaptation activities were held for representatives of utilities, financial authorities, and infrastructure departments for both municipalities. Strategic investment and the implementation of adaptation measures to climate change will increase the resilience of communities, populations, and the economy, and will enable economic development that will be resilient to climate impacts. Developing municipal assistance tools for adaptation planning and financing in order to design 'bankable' adaptation interventions will help secure financing for climate change adaptation action and facilitate medium- to long-term planning.



In conjunction with World Cities Day on 31st October, this highlight shows how even highly polluted cities can be transformed into well-planned, climate-resilient urban hubs.



Climate change can be ruthless

Climate, and especially climate extremes in BiH has changed over last decades. Just in the last ten years, six were very to extremely dry, while five characterized by dramatic floods, experiencing also heat and cold waves, storms and hail. The most vulnerable sectors to climate effects in BiH are agriculture, water management, forestry, power, tourism, biodiversity and human health. The droughts are marked as the biggest threat to BiH, causing huge economic, environmental and social losses. High temperatures, heat stress and droughts are causing disastrous effects in agriculture in recent decades, sometimes resulting in 70% losses as it was in 2012. Thus, it is of crucial importance to plan proper adaptation measures, entities for their implementation as well as financial models to realize measures. Agriculture is especially affected by droughts but also by floods...



When disaster hits, agriculture suffers

Some 165 kilometres to the northeast of Zenica lies the municipality of Laktasi, a predominantly agriculture-oriented area close to the city of Banja Luka. In the last decade, Laktasi was inundated by floods four times, the most devastating of which took place in 2014, when the total damage was calculated at about USD\$14.2M. By way of comparison, the total budget for the municipality that year was only USD\$10M.

The frequent floods are forcing the local authorities to focus most of their disaster risk prevention projects into building riverbank fortifications. As there are numerous rivers and streams throughout the municipality's territory - 90 per cent of which is rural - there are still dozens of kilometres of fortification that need to be built. 'Most of the activities in the future should be aiming for remediation, regulation and cleaning of the rivers and creeks. The Municipality is dedicating some funds in the budget each year for cleaning the riverbeds, which is something that was not done prior to 2014. And this gives results. Some parts are not flooding again', said Goran Vujakovic, head of the Department for local development in the Municipality of Laktasi.

He explained how some of the projects implemented with UNDP support resulted in the development of a risk analysis resource available to citizens via the municipality website, which can show them risk assessments for their dwelling due to floods or landslides.





Despite scarce funds, local authorities are continuously working on building the waterway fortifications bit by bit. Mr Vujakovic noted how efforts are being put into securing better conditions for local farmers as well as for the companies in the industrial area. The primary remaining need is the construction of the riparian fortifications in the key area from Klasnice to Trn, which would cost about USD\$11.8M, a figure currently beyond the capacity of local authorities.

Through its support for the NAP project, UNDP is helping Zenica and Laktasi to prepare a strategy and financing model in order to develop a tool for financing measures that will enable municipalities to have better access to financial resources in the open market. After initial tests in these two municipalities, the tool will be made available to other cities throughout BiH.

Better City, Better Life

To make this work possible, the governmental institutions involved in the NAP process are the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering, and Ecology of Republika Srpska as the country's UNFCCC and GCF focal point, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH as a state-level ministry in charge of coordination of climate change adaptation activities throughout the country, and the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of RS and Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry FBiH.

3

FROM PARIS TO SARAJEVO

Marking the anniversary of the Paris Agreement, a look at how efforts from Bosnia and Herzegovina are contributing to climate action

The mood was euphoric in Paris on 12 December 2015. In a decisive moment of global solidarity and hope, 197 countries came together at COP21 to tackle climate change and its negative impacts by adopting the landmark Paris Agreement. Entered into force less than a year later, the deal is working to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and to limit global temperature increase. Today, 189 countries have joined the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement in BiH

The Paris Agreement includes commitments from all countries to reduce their emissions and work together to adapt to the impacts of climate change and calls on countries to strengthen their commitments over time. The destructive impacts of climate change become our daily reality, urging the world to take immediate action. In that sense, the adaptation efforts are recognised as of equal importance as mitigation. This integrative approach to climate issues can most effectively boost wide world efforts in combating climate change effects. For Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) climate action was already taking shape before when they adopted the Climate Change Adaptation and Low Emission Development Strategy in 2013. Continuing these efforts, BiH ratified the Paris Agreement in March 2017.

Turning Ambition into Reality

As efforts progress to turn the ambition of the Paris Agreement into reality, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) are central to these efforts. Promoting ambitious climate action across the world, NAPs also help countries meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement, specifically working to integrate climate change adaptation into medium and long-term national planning and financing.

For BiH, a UNDP-implemented, Green Climate Fund-financed project, ***Advancing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process for medium-term investment planning in climate sensitive sectors***, has put a particular emphasis on climate change adaptation as one of the most significant development challenges facing the country. Aiming to reach the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement, the project is supporting efforts to integrate climate change-related risks, coping strategies - and opportunities - into ongoing development planning and budgeting processes. This work includes raising institutional capacities for coordination, planning and implementation of climate change adaptation measures. This will improve the country's capacity to monitor, forecast, archive, analyse, communicate and implement actions to reduce climate risks for the most vulnerable sectors of society.



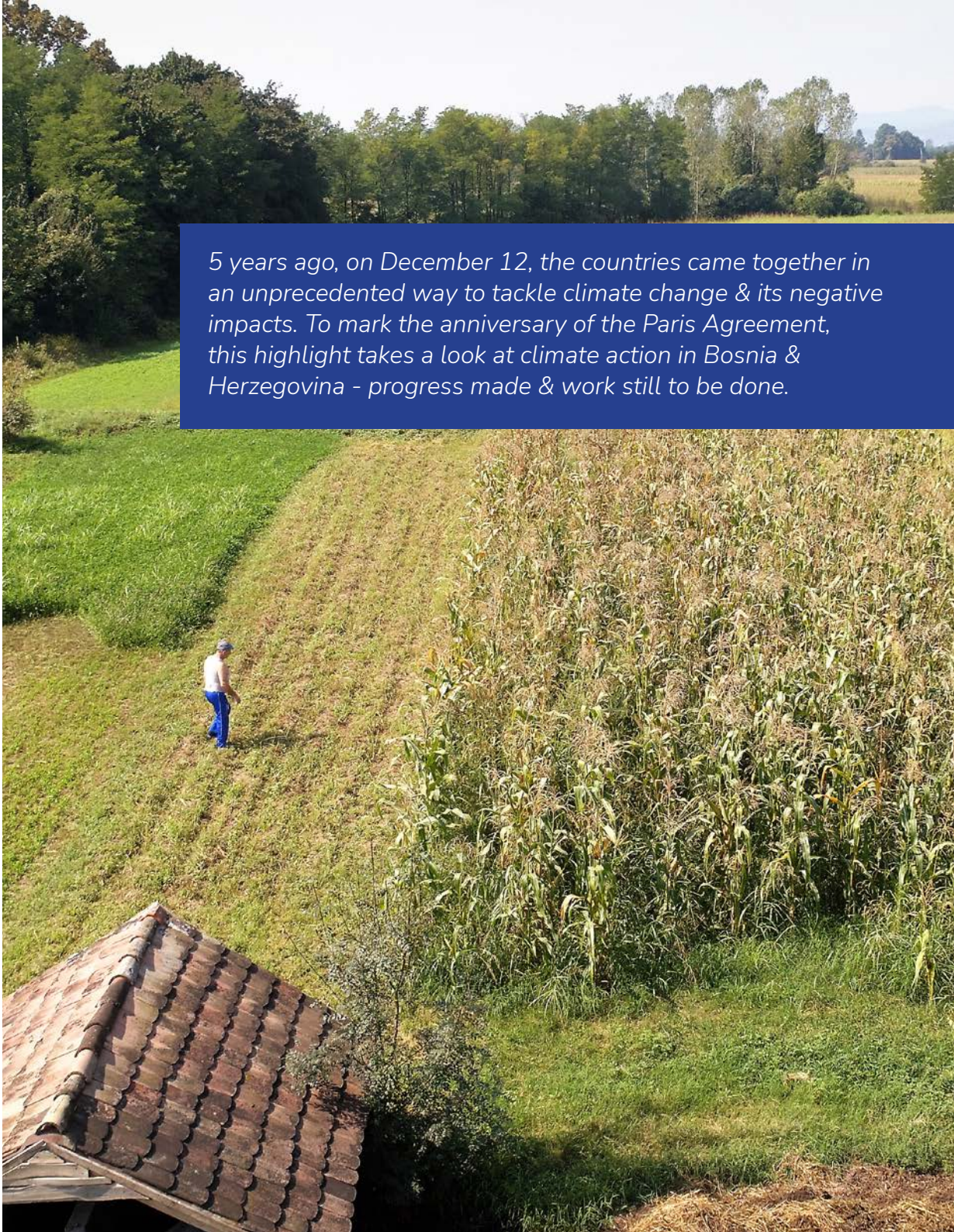


Innovative financing for adaptation


The project is advancing adaptation planning with a focus on the most vulnerable sectors - including water management, agriculture, and forestry - by upgrading the knowledge base for adaptation, prioritising adaptation interventions for the medium term, building institutional capacities for integrating climate change adaptation, and demonstrating innovative ways of financing adaptation at the sub-national and local government levels. In specific, BiH's NAP project has initiated two pilot projects in Zenica and Laktasi introducing an innovative, sustainable and bottom-up approach to climate change adaptation investments. Additionally, a set of guidance and financing instruments with public/private sector engagement is being developed at municipal level and representatives of Zenica and Laktasi have been trained in incorporating analyses of adaptation finance needs and the prioritisation of adaptation investments. Moreover, through the process, the representatives from pilot municipalities have been trained in the preparation of project concept notes, especially taking into consideration climate change adaptation elements in order to identify new financing opportunities and new sources of funding. Selected municipalities are expected to lay the foundation for active participation by reaching out of complementary funding sources, which had previously been inaccessible.

First of its kind

Through this approach the project is supporting the development of BiH's first-ever monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, which is a base for more efficient implementation of climate change adaptation activities in the country's most vulnerable sectors. These sectors include agriculture, water, hydropower, human health, forestry, biodiversity, sensitive ecosystems, and tourism. How do you know what's working if you're not measuring impact? The basis for the development of a M&E framework is the generation of **Standard Operational Procedures** (SOP) for data/information exchange between sectors and institutions relevant for climate change adaptation. Enhancing cooperation and coordination with relevant institutions, national, and international experts these procedures help identify which climate data/information should be exchanged, which sectors will be engaged in exchanges and expected timeframes for reporting. These procedures enhance data collection and analysis - and provide the information needed for adaptation planning. This will ensure that decisions made increase resilience to climate change.



5 years ago, on December 12, the countries came together in an unprecedented way to tackle climate change & its negative impacts. To mark the anniversary of the Paris Agreement, this highlight takes a look at climate action in Bosnia & Herzegovina - progress made & work still to be done.



Shifting the needle

The Paris Agreement marks the beginning of a shift towards a low-carbon world—but there is much more to do. The Paris Agreement provides a durable framework guiding the global effort for decades to come. The aim is to raise countries' climate ambition over time.

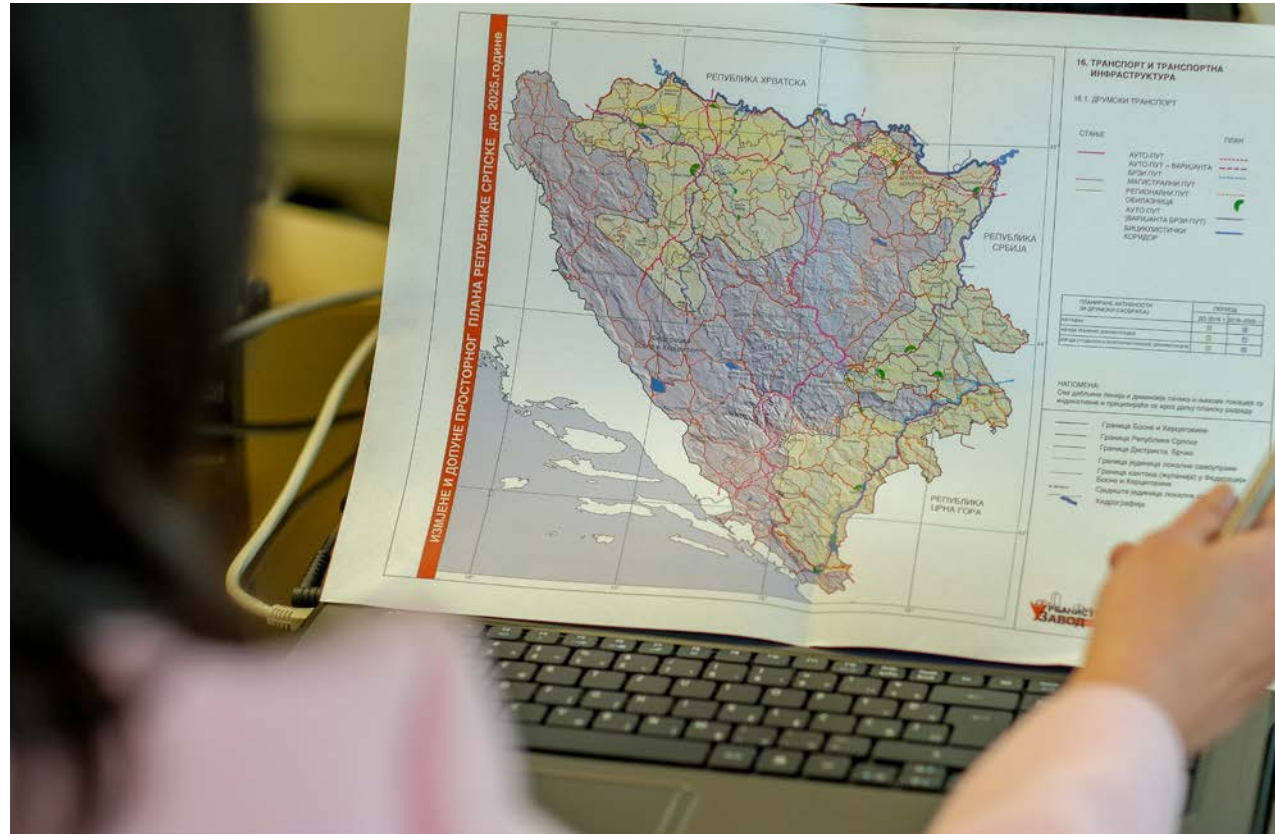
Implementation of the Agreement is essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as it provides a roadmap for climate actions that will reduce emissions and build climate resilience.

The BiH NAP team knows this. In addition to realizing the Paris Agreement, this work is also advancing BiH's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, this project supported progress on achieving, SDG1 on poverty, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 7 affordable and clean energy, SDG11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 13 on climate action, and SDG 17 partnerships for the goals among others.

Quote by Ranka Radic

Head of Department for Ecology at
Republika Srpska Hydrometeorological
Institute

'The 2014 floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina have shown how grave the consequences of climate change can be and how Bosnia and Herzegovina is no exception to that. ... There is a need for a greater awareness and knowledge related to the influence of climate change among the decision-makers and among the public which would allow a systematic response and building resilience. An individual role of citizens in contributing to reducing influence of climate change and adjusting to it should not be underestimated. Education about the environment should be improved in order to enable children and adults to learn about climate change and potential consequences.'





Quote by Azrudin Husika

Professor at the Faculty for Mechanical Engineering at the University of Sarajevo

'A big achievement is defining goals, visions, and concrete activities aiming for adaptation to climate change as well as its mitigation. This allowed for the definition of needs for international assistance which is available in Bosnia and Herzegovina for these purposes.

The result of that is the increasing the energy efficiency, reforms of the system of incentives to renewable energy sources as well as programmes of adaptation to climate change. ...The opportunities for lowering risks from catastrophes lie in building infrastructure as well as in increasing their resilience in such a way. I mean the infrastructure such as watering systems, prevention of fires and floods, public transport, strengthening of the system of health care, improving the resource efficiency, which eventually results in sustainable jobs and higher standard of living.'



Training Highlight: Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) workshop:

Teslić, BiH – 1-2 Dec 2020

Within the NAP project, a two-day workshop was convened in the city of Teslić on 1 and 2 December, 2020. The workshop's main subject was the **Development of Standard Operating Procedures to establish horizontal and vertical data exchange within sectors that are significantly affected by climate change.**

During the workshop's first day, attendees comprised representatives of institutions from throughout FBiH, including the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the FBiH Environmental Protection Fund, and UNDP environmental experts and representatives. On the workshop's second day, attendees included representatives from relevant sectors in the Republika Srpska (RS) Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, the 'Šume Srpske' Public Institution, the RS Environmental Protection Fund, the RS Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Environment in their role as UNFCCC Focal point, the Republic Hydrometeorological institute, UNDP staff and experts from relevant sectors (water management, agriculture and forestry, spatial planning, and environment).

During the workshop, the experts presented initial results from their research and proposed a framework of climate change adaptation indicators. The workshop also facilitated exchanges of relevant data between sector representatives. After input and refinements by participants, the proposed indicator framework and data exchange proposals were adopted unanimously, rendering the workshop a clear success and a strong basis for future collaboration and cooperation.



UPCOMING EVENT:

Interested in understanding climate finance?

This UN CC: E-learn tutorial ***Finding the Money - Financing Climate Action*** introduces the concept of climate finance. The urgent climate action that the world needs requires significant financial resources. This course provides an overview of climate finance, including what it is, and how and where countries access different sources of financing.

Link: <https://www.uncclearn.org/courses/finding-the-money-financing-climate-action/>



Ministarstvo vanjske trgovine i ekonomskih odnosa Bosne i Hercegovine



Ministarstvo za prostorno uređenje, građevinarstvo i ekologiju Republike Srpske



Ministarstvo poljoprivrede, šumarstva i vodoprivrede Republike Srpske



Federalno ministarstvo poljoprivrede, vodoprivrede i šumarstva



Federalno ministarstvo okoliša i turizma

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