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**Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo**  
**Qeveria - Vlada - Government**  
Ministria e Mjedisit dhe Planifikimit Hapësinor  
Ministarstvo Sredine i Prostornog Planiranja  
Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

**Action Plan for Biodiversity**  
**2016 - 2020**

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**Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity**  
**2011 - 2020**

**Department of Environment Protection**

**Prishtina**

***'Humans are part of nature's rich diversity and have power to protect or destroy it'***

*Main message from Secretariat of CBD for the year 2010 to the world's decision makers.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2011 – 2020 of the Republic of Kosovo was the result of 16 months work of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP), supported by the European Commission through the TAIEX instrument (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission).

The document was drafted in a participatory approach by involving a wide range of stakeholders and is based on the results of two State of Nature Reports (2006 – 2007 and 2008 – 2009) prepared by the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency (KEPA) and reports from other sectors. The Kosovo Assembly officially approved the NBSAP 2011 – 2020 on 7 October 2011.

The implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan has to be an iterative and cyclical process, as the status and the trends of biodiversity, the threats to environmental goods and ecosystem services, the economic and social values, as well as the political framework may change during the years. Therefore, there is a need for a review and adjustment of this policy instrument, which is in accordance with Article 141 paragraph 5 of the Nature Protection Law No. 03/L-233.

Between March and June 2016, a **'Mid-Term Assessment for Reviewing and Up-dating the Biodiversity Strategy and the Development of an Action Plan 2016 – 2020'** was carried out, a task led by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, again with TAIEX support. Based on a Decision of the General Secretary, MESP No. 31/2016 issued on 24.02.2016, a Working Group (WG) for implementing this task was established. The MESP led the process and staff of the Division of Nature Protection overtook the coordination and communication with the WGs. The contributions of all members were essential during reviewing and updating this strategic document; we express our acknowledgement and we sincerely thank them for their engagement.

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning thanks also the Directorate General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) for the support of the expert missions.

Prishtina, June 2016

## ABBREVIATIONS and ACRONYMS

AA	Appropriate Assessment (according to the Habitats Directive)
AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
AI	Administrative Instruction
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DG NEAR	Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations
EC	European Commission
ECNC	European Centre for Nature Conservation
ECT	Energy Community Treaty
ESK	Energy Strategy for Kosovo 2009 - 2018
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPAP	European Partnership Action Plan
EU	European Union
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FMNS	Faculty of Mathematic and Nature Sciences
FSC	Forestry Stewardship Council
GDP	General Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	German Development Cooperation (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
GMO	Genetically Modifying Organisms
GW	Gigawatt
ha	hectare
HC	Hydro-Central
HMIK	Hydro Meteorological Institute of Kosovo
IBAs	Important Bird Areas
IPAs	Important Plant Areas
ISP	Institute for Spatial Planning
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KEAP	Kosovo Environmental Action Plan
KEK	Kosovo Energy Corporation
KEPA	Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency
KFA	Kosovo Forest Agency
KINP	Kosovo Institute for Nature Protection
km	kilometer
M	Measures
MAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
MCYS	Ministry of Culture Youth and Sport
MDEs	Municipal Directorates for Education
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MED	Ministry of Economic Development
MF	Ministry of Economy and Finance

MEI	Ministry of European Integration
MEM	Ministry of Energy and Mining
MEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MF	Ministry of Finance
MI	Ministry of Infrastructure
mm	millimeter
MS	Member State
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MW	Megawatt
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NP	National Park
NPISAA	National Programme for Implementation of Stabilization and Association Agreement
OPM	Office of Prime Minister
OSP	Office of Strategic Planning
PAs	Protected Areas
PSFM	Project for Sustainable Forest Management
REC	Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
SCIs	Sites of Community Importance
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SIDA	Swedish Development Cooperation Agency
'SMART'	Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic and Time-related
SO	Strategic Objectives
SPAs	Special Protection Areas
t	tons
TAIEX	Instrument of Technical Assistance Information Exchange that is managed by General Directory of European Commission for Enlargement
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UP	University of Prishtina
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Programme
WFD	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
WG	Working Group

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## Geographical Position of Kosovo

Kosovo is a small country in the centre of the Balkan Peninsula and lies between the parallel 42° and 44° of northern hemisphere of land and between meridians 20° and 22°. The country bounds with Serbia in the north and east (351,6 km), with Montenegro in the north-west (78,6 km), with Albania in the west (111,8 km) and with Macedonia in the south (158,7 km); the general length of the border line is 700,7 km.

Total Surface:	10.908 km <sup>2</sup>
Population:	1,9 million
Density of population:	around 175 per km <sup>2</sup>
Gross Domestic Product:	3.407 € per capita
Number of settlements:	around 1466
Capital City:	Prishtina, around 200.000 inhabitants
Currency:	EURO
Highest Peak:	Gjeravica (2.656 meters above sea level)
Longest River:	Drini i Bardhë (122 km),
Arable Land:	585.000 hectares
Forest Land:	464.800 hectares



Figure 1: Geographical map of Kosovo

# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is a fundamental document for the protection of nature, which determines long-term and medium-term objectives for the conservation of biodiversity. A national strategy is reflecting how the country intends to fulfill the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in light of specific national circumstances, and the related action plans constitute the sequence of steps to be taken to meet these goals. The requirement to integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making, and mainstream issues across all sectors of the national economy and policy-making framework, are complex challenges for the Government of Kosovo.

The purpose of this strategy it is not to list all opened issues, which have to deal with biodiversity in Kosovo, but to create a framework of aims and activities and a better coordination. Recommended actions in this Strategy should not present a 'wish list' in the field of legislation and policies, plans and necessary programmes, but should be realistic and in line with the goals of the CBD and related Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2011 – 2020.

Preparations for the drafting the first NBSAP started already in 2009. The MESP led the process involving relevant stakeholders from different sectors. The NBSAP 2011 – 2020 was finalized in 2010 and approved by the Assembly of Republic of Kosovo in October 2011. The revision process took place in spring 2016, again using a participatory approach. The assessment of achievements defined in the Action Plan 2011 – 2015 revealed major obstacles, specifically insufficient capacity (human resources, technical, financial), unclear distribution of responsibilities, weak or limited communication, coordination and cooperation. All these factors are potential risks for implementing the Strategy and there is the need for international assistance but also accompanied with an increased state budget.

Main chapters of the document are:

- Vision and the Strategic Objectives
- Description of the status in the particular sector, main identified problems and proposed actions:
  - o Biodiversity (species, habitats, landscapes, minerals, fossils and protected areas)
  - o Education, communication, information and public participation
  - o Agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing and tourism
  - o Water, transport, mines and energy
  - o Spatial planning and Environmental Impact Assessment
  - o Legal and institutional Framework
- Action Plan for implementing the Strategy
- Monitoring

## 2 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Legal Basis for the adoption of NBSAP

Basis for adoption of the Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity in Republic of Kosovo 2011 – 2020 (in further text Strategy), derives from Article 140 of the Law of Nature Protection Nr. 03/L-233 and published in Official Gazette of Republic of Kosovo No. 85 dated 9 November 2010.

Based on Article 141, paragraph 2 of the Law on Nature Protection, the strategy defines long-term objectives and purposes for conservation of biological and landscape diversity and protected natural values as well as the methods for their implementation, in compliance with overall economic, social and cultural development of the Republic of Kosovo. Furthermore, the Strategy shall be drawn up on the basis of the latest State of Nature Report and should include the following topics:

- ↳ general strategic objectives;
- ↳ aims for conservation of landscape, ecological systems, habitat types, wild species, local modified species;
- ↳ aims for protected natural values;
- ↳ aims for exploring and monitoring the state of nature;
- ↳ aims for incorporating nature protection into other sectors;
- ↳ aims for legislative and institutional framework;
- ↳ aims for education and training aimed at promotion and conservation of biological and landscape diversity;
- ↳ aims for informing the public and public participation in decision making concerning nature;
- ↳ action plans for implementation of guidelines, indicating priorities and potential sources of financing;
- ↳ the method of meeting international obligations concerning nature protection;
- ↳ cartographic supplement presenting spatially the measures for conservation of biological and landscape diversity and protection of natural values.

The Assembly of Republic of Kosovo approved the first NBSAP on 7 October 2011.

### 2.2 Requirements of the Biodiversity Convention and Other International Treaties

Kosovo as a new country is not a signatory party of any convention or party to any agreement in field of nature protection, which would oblige for fulfillment of obligations that derive from them. There is the hope that Kosovo will soon become a signatory party of the Convention on Biological Diversity and will be obliged to have a NBSAP. This Strategy also aims to fulfill obligations toward other conventions, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Convention on Migratory Species, Convention on Natural and Cultural Heritage, Convention on Wetlands and others.

#### 2.2.1 The Convention on Biological Diversity

The **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** was negotiated since 1988 and concluded and signed by 150 government leaders at the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development (Rio

Earth Summit). The main objectives are to ensure the conservation of biodiversity as well as the sustainable use of biological resources and the access to and benefit sharing of genetic resources. Conceived as a practical tool for translating the principles of Agenda 21 into reality, the Convention recognizes that biological diversity is more than plants, animals and microorganisms and their ecosystems – it is about people and their needs. It entered into force on 29 December 1993 and has presently virtual universal participation. As it was adopted in the form of a ‘framework convention’, the CBD largely leaves it to individual states to determine how best to implement its legal provisions.

During the 10<sup>th</sup> CBD meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted a revised and updated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the so-called **Aichi Targets**, for the period 2011 – 2020 (the conference was held in Nagoya, in the Aichi Prefecture, in Japan in October 2010). The global biodiversity strategy includes 5 Strategic Goals divided into 20 Aichi Targets.

### **2.2.2 The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**

The so-called **CITES Convention** is an international agreement between governments with the aim to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The Convention was signed at Washington, D.C. (March 1973), providing a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level. The CITES Secretariat is administered by UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) and is located at Geneva, Switzerland. Currently, 181 countries are Parties to the Convention and the instrument applies to some 30,000 species of animal and plant worldwide.

In this context it is worth to mention that the CITES Convention has been implemented into the EU legal framework since 1984 through a set of regulations, the so-called **EU Wildlife Trade Regulations**. Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein; and a number of Commission Regulations amending Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97, particularly with regard to amendments to species covered by the legislation. The last amendment being Commission Regulation (EU) No. 75/2013 of 29 July 2013 amending Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein.

### **2.2.3 The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals**

The **CMS or Bonn Convention** is a global treaty aiming to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. The CMS is a global and UN-based inter-governmental organization and transboundary and endangered migratory species are the particular focus of the Convention. The CMS covers a great diversity of migratory species, listed in the Annexes of the Convention.

#### 2.2.3.1 Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds

The **AWEA Agreement** – developed under the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species is an inter-governmental treaty dedicated to the conservation of migratory water birds and their habitats across Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Greenland and the Canadian Archipelago. AEWA is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme and brings together countries and the wider international conservation community in an effort to establish coordinated conservation and management of migratory water birds throughout their entire migratory range.

#### 2.2.4 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

The purpose of the **World Heritage Convention** is to protect designated cultural and natural sites from destruction, encroachment and exploitation. The Convention seeks to *‘establish an effective system of collective protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value, organized on a permanent basis and in accordance with modern scientific methods’*. The Convention does not protect particular plant or animal species, but Parties to the Convention must conserve listed sites within their territory, take measures to protect their national heritage and are urged to integrate sites into regional planning programmes.

#### 2.2.5 The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat

The **Ramsar Convention** – signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 before entering into force in 1975 – is an international treaty designed to address global concerns regarding wetland loss and degradation. It provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

#### 2.2.6 The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

A treaty signed in Bern (**Bern Convention**) and open for signatures since 19 September 1979, the Convention aims to ensure conservation of wild flora and fauna species and their habitats, covering most of the natural heritage of the European continent and extending to some states of Africa. Special attention is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species specified in appendices.

One of the main tools for Contracting Parties to comply with their obligations under the Bern Convention is to setting-up the Emerald Network at national level – an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. The Emerald Network is often used by the European Commission as the very first step on the way to the identification of NATURA 2000 sites (in fact, its aim is to familiarize candidate countries with relevant forms and to allow them to gather the basic information about target habitat types and species).

#### 2.2.7 The Landscape Convention

The **Florence Convention** promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organizes European co-operation on landscape issues. The Convention was adopted on 20 October 2000 in Florence (Italy) and came into force on 1 March 2004 (Council of Europe Treaty Series no. 176). It is open for signature by member states of the Council of Europe and for accession by the European Community and European non-member states. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all dimensions of European landscape.

#### 2.2.8 Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

The **Aarhus Convention** – under the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) – was adopted on 25 June 1998 in the Danish city of Aarhus (Århus) and entered into force on 30 October 2001. The Convention establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at national, regional or local level) will contribute to these rights to become effective. The Convention provides for:

- the right of everyone to receive environmental information that is held by public authorities (**‘access to environmental information’**). This can include information on the state of the environment, but also on policies or measures taken, or on the state of human health and safety where this can be affected by the state of the environment. Applicants are entitled to obtain this information within one month of the request and without having to say why they require it.
- the right to participate in environmental decision-making. Arrangements are to be made by public authorities to enable the public affected and environmental non-governmental organizations to comment on, for example, proposals for projects affecting the environment, or plans and programmes relating to the environment, these comments to be taken into due account in decision-making, and information to be provided on the final decisions and the reasons for it (**‘public participation in environmental decision-making’**);
- the right to review procedures to challenge public decisions that have been made without respecting the two aforementioned rights or environmental law in general (**‘access to justice’**).

### 2.3 European Union Integration

The medium term aim of Kosovo is the integration into the European Union. Therefore, there is a need for creating an adequate legal and institutional framework. According to the *‘National Programme for Implementation of Stabilization and Association Agreement’* (NPISAA, March 2016) a wide range of relevant nature legislation has already been transposed during the last years, amongst others, the Habitats and Birds Directives, Zoo Directive, CITES Regulations, Leg hold Traps Regulation, FLEGT licensing scheme for imports of timber, to name a few. The remaining provisions will be gradually transposed, in line with the progress of Kosovo towards membership in the EU. The most important Directives with respect to biodiversity and nature protection to be implemented during the upcoming years are:

- Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (**Habitats Directive**)
- Directive 79/409/EEC (amended Directive 2009/147/EC) of the European Parliament on the conservation of wild birds (**Birds Directive**)

Both, the Habitats and the Birds Directives are the two legal key pieces to protected nature and biodiversity in Europe. The Habitats Directive requires Member States (MS) to draw up a list of Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) on their territory by the date of accession, which are significantly contributing to preserving Europe's habitat types. Under the Birds Directive, MS are obliged to designate suitable sites as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for the conservation of wild birds. The designation of SPAs must be based on objective, verifiable scientific criteria. Sites designated under both Directives will form the national NATURA 2000 Network - contributing to Europe's most important instrument to safeguard biodiversity.

According to the NPISAA, the Birds Directive has almost entirely been transposed (97 %) through the Law on Nature Protection, Law on Hunting, and Administrative Instruction (AI) on announcement under protection of wild species and the Decision on announcement under protection of Ligatina e Hencit/Radevës as a Special Protected Area for birds. Furthermore, the NPISAA mentions that the Habitats Directive has been fully transposed (100 %), by Law on Nature Protection and the Administrative Instruction for the sorts of natural habitat types, natural habitat map, threatened and rare natural habitat types as well as safeguard measures for conservation of natural habitat types.

The harmonization and the implementation of international treaties and European legislation will be one of the strategic objectives, planned also within this Strategy. In order to implement the applicable legislation for the protection of nature, several other national strategic documents are relevant, most importantly:

- National Programme for Implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (NPISAA) as of March 2016;
- Policy and Strategy Paper on Forestry Sector Development 2010 - 2020
- Climate Change Framework Strategy (2014 - 2024)
- Kosovo Environmental Strategy (draft)
- National Development Strategy (2016 - 2021)

### 3 PREPARATION AND METHODOLOGY FOR UPDATING THE STRATEGY

The first Strategy (2011-2020) was prepared through a transparent and participatory process in 2010 and has been approved by the Kosovo Assembly in 2011. As the status of biodiversity, the threats to natural resources and ecosystem services, the economic and social values, as well as the political framework may change during the years, the implementation of the NBSAP has to be an iterative and cyclical process. Therefore, there is a need for a review and adjustment of this policy instrument, which is in accordance with Article 141 paragraph 5 of the Nature Protection Law No. 03/L-233 (*'The analysis of objectives and guidelines set out by the Strategy shall be pursued every five (5) years as the analysis of action plan implementation, and review of the Strategy shall be carried out as required'*).

The competent authority – the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning – asked for support and the European Commission through the TAIEX instrument approved a **'Mid-Term Assessment for Reviewing and Up-dating the Biodiversity Strategy and the Development of an Action Plan 2016 – 2020'**, which was carried out between March and June 2016.

Based on a Decision of the General Secretary, MESP No. 31/2016 issued on 24.02.2016, a Working Group was established; the Decision, listing the Members of the WGs, is attached (Annex III). The Division of Nature Protection overtook the coordination and communication with the WGs. The listed members were divided into 6 sub-groups, according to the different sectors and cross-cutting issues:

- WG 1 – species, habitats, landscapes, minerals, fossils and protected areas
- WG 2 – education, communication, information and public awareness
- WG 3 – forestry, agriculture, hunting, fishing and tourism
- WG 4 – water, transport, mining and energy
- WG 5 – spatial planning and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- WG 6 – legal and institutional framework

The involvement of experts of different sectors and professions guarantees an integrated approach for the protection of nature and settling the aims of protection of biodiversity in other sectors.

For the assessment the TAIEX expert prepared two questionnaires during her first mission (March 7 – 11, 2016). Part I to assess the achievements of objectives and measures and Part II to judge key challenges and obstacles. The questionnaires have been translated and sent out to the members of all WGs. The *'Assessment Report of the achievements of objectives set out in the Biodiversity Strategy and actions defined in the Action Plan 2011 – 2015'* displays only few positive developments but detected major obstacles which hindered the implementation of proposed actions.

In addition to the assessment, the members of the WGs agreed to provide up-dated text parts of their relevant sectors. The documents were collected and reviewed by the staff of the Division of Nature Protection and updated text parts have been included into the document.

During the second mission (April 18 – 22, 2016) the existing Strategic Objectives (SO) were revisited – not changing the content but to make the objectives 'SMART' (specific, measurable, assignable, realistic and time-related) and discussions on indicators for monitoring were held. The majority of time was devoted to develop the Action Plan 2016 – 2020. Members of the WGs discussed and agreed on actions, partly to continue with or re-phrase already existing actions, partly to included

new actions or initiatives. All proposed actions have a clear link to the global biodiversity strategy under the CBD with its Aichi Targets, to the EU Biodiversity Strategy and to national policy papers. Members of the WGs also proposed projects, which are supporting the institutions to achieve the proposed actions.

In the final mission (June 13 - 17, 2016) the TAIEX expert put together all updated text parts and discussed and agreed with the beneficiary the updated Strategic Objectives and related Measures, including the indicators. The updated and revised draft NBSAP was presented to the Members of the Working Groups and final comments and inputs were collected. Wherever necessary, discussions took place with staff of the MESP to clarify text parts and to agree on the annexes. All final comments were incorporated and the expert prepared the final version of the NBSAP in English language. The document has to be translated by professional services to ensure that the English and the Albanian version are consistent.

## **4 GENERAL ASPECTS OF THE STRATEGY**

### **4.1 To have a clear focus**

By screening existing information from different published sources during the preparatory process of the Strategy in 2010, it became obvious that Kosovo will face ongoing social and economical difficulties during the implementation of the Strategy. The identification of issues, problems and possibilities to address and to deal with biodiversity conservation in the NBSAP 2011 - 2020, respectively the Strategic Objectives (SO) and related Measures (M), seemed somehow visionary. Therefore, the revised version tried to be more realistic and although outlining long-term measures, to focus on activities which have a high potential to be financed and have the possibility to be more successful. It is important that actions that are undertaken in local level provide the opportunity to win support and engagement of local people.

#### **4.2 To continue with information which is now available**

It is obvious that the inventories of plants and animals are old and not completed. Therefore, data for biodiversity in Kosovo are insufficient to initiate a comprehensive, nation-wide and strategically planned conservation process for biodiversity. However, waiting to implement adequate measures until a full inventory is available; this simply leads to further loss of biodiversity. Kosovo has to build up on what is already available, try to access and efficiently use international funding, and take advantage of synergies, especially when it comes to the collaboration and cooperation with stakeholders.

#### **4.3 To be time-related**

Although the timeframe foresees 10 years, the Strategy is a 'living document', meaning that it has to be regularly updated due to the changing parameters. These updates make sure that actions can be prioritized due to the needs and the financial resources.

#### **4.4 To halt further loss of biodiversity**

Achievements to further halt the loss of biodiversity is difficult to be defined and measured. Anyhow, through the process of analyzing the problems and tailoring corresponding actions every few years, provides a high potential to effectively protect and manage the natural resources of Kosovo and to avoid further losses in biodiversity.

#### **4.5 To have integrated approaches and to share responsibilities**

The leading role and responsibilities for issues dealing with biodiversity are with the MESP, but also other public authorities have responsibilities within their mandates when it comes to biodiversity, such as other ministries, municipalities, etc.; the dialogue with and between these bodies has to be ensured and biodiversity issues have to be incorporated into all sectors. In addition, it is necessary that also owners of private land, the business community and the public understand their responsibilities in preservation of natural heritage of Kosovo. The Action Plan clearly shows the responsibilities of each intervention and through successful implementation all stakeholders, either be it institutions or individuals, will be beneficiaries, and finally the nature itself.

#### **4.6 To follow strategic principles**

Based on the requirements of the CBD and the provisions of the Law on Nature Protection, the following basic principles have been defined as the starting points of the Strategy:

- Biodiversity presents unique values, which Kosovo has to use as resource for further development by undertaking necessary measures for inventories, conservation and improvement of these values;
- Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity has to become part of policies and legislation of other sectors which use or have impacts on these natural resources;
- Harmonization of activities at local, national and international level and being aware of it's values are integral parts of biodiversity conservation;
- Approximation of legislation will be achieved through the transposition of relevant EU Directives and Regulations with respect to the conservation of wild species and natural habitats.

## 5 VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### 5.1 Vision

*Our vision for biodiversity is to ensure unique wealth of plants, animals and landscapes that would contribute to increase welfare for the people of Kosovo.*

### 5.2 Strategic Objectives

During the process of updating the NBSAP – together with representatives from all stakeholders – efforts were made to keep the Strategic Objectives of the NBSAP but to make them ‘SMART’ (specific, measurable, assignable, realistic and time-related).

#### **Strategic Objective 1:**

By 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning has taken steps to develop and implement the legal and institutional framework in line with EU standards.

#### **Strategic Objective 2:**

By 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning initiates and supports projects contributing to the protection and maintenance of plant and animal species, natural habitats and representative landscape.

#### **Strategic Objective 3:**

By 2020, nature protection is incorporated into other sector policies through the Ministries’ cooperation with relevant stakeholders ensuring integrated sectoral policies, effective management and sustainable use of biodiversity.

#### **Strategic Objective 4:**

By 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning supports and works closely with municipalities, NGOs and the university to implement projects in the education and communication sectors and has taken steps promoting biodiversity and nature protection in society through awareness raising activities.

## 6 REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS

### 6.1 Species, habitats, landscapes, minerals, fossils and protected areas

### 6.1.1 Kosovo's Biodiversity

Kosovo shows a high biodiversity, considering its relatively small surface (10.908 km<sup>2</sup>). The geographical location, geological, pedology and hydrological factors, the landscape and the climate have enabled Kosovo to have this richness in biologic and landscapes diversity. Specifically the country is extra ordinary rich in plant and tree species, enriched also by the presence of species driven south during ice age periods. Thirteen plant species have been identified that grow only in Kosovo (endemic species) and approximately 200 species that grow only in the Balkans. Kosovo's plant diversity is the result of complex interactions of physical factors, creating favorable conditions for plant species and a wide variety of habitat conditions. These factors also explain the high level of animal diversity within this relatively small territory. There are approximately 46 species of mammals in Kosovo, many of them with regional and global importance. Much of Kosovo's diversity is founded in the higher Mountains in the southern and western regions of the country.

Many factors, such as the degradation of habitats and global climate changes have direct impacts on the decrease and partly extinction of various plant and animal species. Important habitats are being damaged and degraded, and ecosystems are being destabilized as a consequence of human intervention, particularly in the ecosystems near settlements. Caused by unsustainable practices, illegal wood-cutting and fires, various species are faced with the danger of losing their habitat and incoming invasive species often change the floristic structure of ecosystems.

Another fact contributes to the loss of plant biodiversity; although local people used the phyto-diversity for centuries, the recent uncontrolled collection of medicinal and aromatic herbs, berries and mushrooms leads to great damages and alarming losses, which may have unpredictable consequences in future.

Water ecosystems are increasingly destroyed; the pollution from domestic and industrial sources as well as the uncontrolled sand and gravel mining in riverbed leads to the degradation of wetlands and rivers resulting in the loss of aquatic plant species and fish species. This has specifically highly negative impacts on water birds; some bird species have already been lost.

Most of the animal species in the country are threatened by the destruction of forest habitats. Although impacts on biodiversity due to hunting have been decreased, there are still illegal activities reported, especially during the weekends within protected areas, leading to decreasing animal populations.

### 6.1.2 Kosovo's Flora and Vegetation

Several local and international scientists have conducted research on the flora and vegetation during the last decade; nevertheless, there is still no full inventory of the flora of Kosovo and the exact number of vegetative taxa in the country is not known. According to the Red Book of Vascular Flora of the Republic of Kosovo, published in 2013 with support of the German-GIZ and the MESP, there are approximately 2.800 - 3.000 species of vascular flora. To the current knowledge, Kosovo's vegetation is represented with 139 plant associations grouped in 63 alliances, 35 collocations and 20 classes. Centers of flora biodiversity in Kosovo are considered to be: Sharri Mountains, Bjeshkët e Nemuna, Koritnik and Pashtrik which harbor particularly endemic, sub-endemic and relict plant

species, without leaving aside certain important plant areas in the northern and central parts of Kosovo. Figure 2 shows the map of Important Plant Areas.

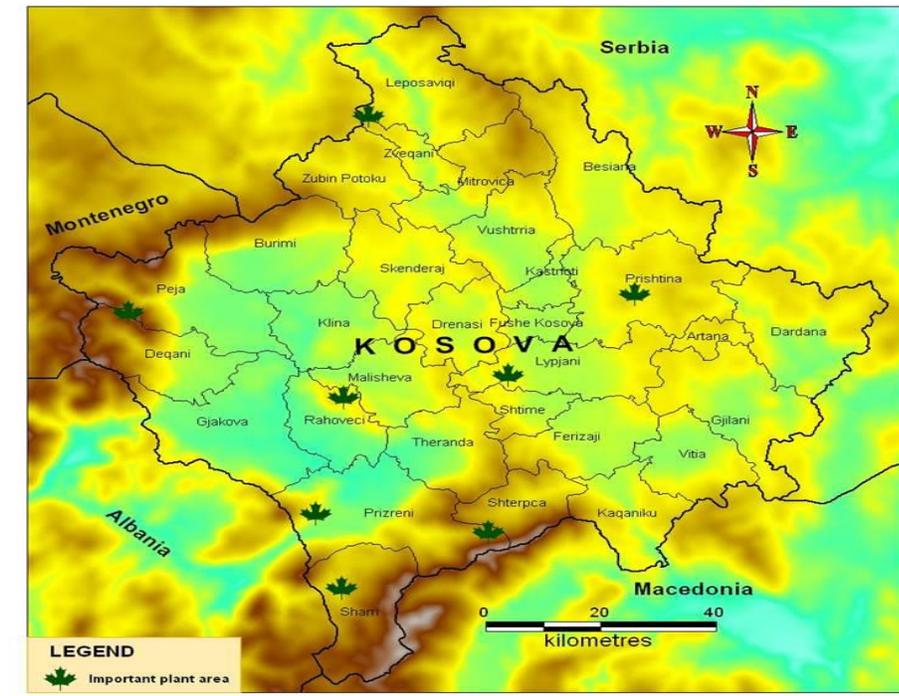


Figure 2: Map of Important Plant Areas

### 6.1.3 Kosovo's Fauna

Kosovo's fauna is characterized by a large variety of species; although research is by far not completed, it is estimated that in Kosovo live about 250 vertebrate species, 200 species of butterflies and over 500 water macrozoobenthos taxa. The exact number of species of fauna is not yet known, a Red Book of Fauna doesn't yet exist. The richest faunistic areas are all Kosovo's mountain massifs; worth emphasizing are the Sharr Mountains and Bjeshkët e Nemuna. Forests and mountain ecosystems offer appropriate living conditions for populations of big mammals, such as brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), lynx (*Lynx lynx*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), wild goat (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), and a lot of different raptorial poultry and – not to forget – very important singers for ornitho-fauna of Kosovo, the Balkans and Europe. Generally, lakes and swamps in Kosovo are very important as feeding and resting places during the migratory roads for many birds.

There exist two protected areas, which were designated already in 1955 only to protect two animal species and their habitats: Kozhnjari for the protection of Wild goats (*Rupicapra rupicapra L.*) in the municipality of Deçan and Rusenica for the lynx (*Lynx lynx L.*) in the municipality of Suhareka. These areas were announced based on legislation at that time and both are currently Strictly Protected Areas as the species are threatened and rare on European level. Also to be mentioned as endangered species on international level, are Mountain eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Lesser kestrel (*Falco naummani*) and Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*).

#### 6.1.4 Protected Areas System in Kosovo

The classification of the protected areas in Kosovo is determined by the Law on Nature Protection (No.03/L -233) as of 09 November 2010. Protected areas are announced with the purpose of protection and care of biodiversity, landscape, natural characteristics and cultural heritage and for offering effective management through legal and other means. The classification of protected areas in Kosovo is intended to be in accordance with the one of the International Union for Nature Conservation IUCN<sup>1</sup>, but it is not yet in full compliance with it. The distribution of protected areas in Kosovo can be found in Annex I.

Currently the number of protected areas (natural values) in Kosovo is 175 comprising an area of 118.370,5 hectares (about 11 % of the territory of Kosovo). These areas are designated as: 19 Strict Nature Reserves ('Reserve Arnenit', 'Mountain of Kozhnjer and Maja Ropsit', 'Rusenica', 'Kamilla', etc.), 2 National Parks (NP 'Sharri' and NP 'Bjeshkët e Nemuna'), 147 Nature Monuments (e.g. 'Drini i Bardhë and Cave Radavc', 'Rugova Gorge', 'Canyon of the Drini i Bardhë and Ura e Fshajtë', 'tree plant in Marash' etc. ), 1 Regional Nature Park ('Gërmia'), 1 Special Protected Bird Area ('Wetland Henc - Radeva'), and Protected Landscapes 'Shkugëza'.

The largest areas under protection can be found in the two National Parks with 115.957 hectares. The list of all protected areas is included in Annex II. According to the new Law on Nature Protection, there is the intension to harmonize the classification of PAs, but the process is not yet finished and works regarding the central register of protected areas continuous.

IUCN Category	Designation	No.	Surface/ha
I	Strict Nature Reserves	19	9.775,25
II	National Parks	2	115.957,00
III	Nature monuments	147	6.004.45
V	Natural Regional Park	1	1.126,00
V	Protected Landscape	4	124,00
V	Special Protected Bird area	1	109.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>118.370.50<sup>2</sup></b>

Table 1: Protected Areas according to categories

Source: KINP, recent data

#### 6.1.5 Management of Protected Areas

<sup>1</sup> IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) is a Non-Governmental Organization established in 1948.

<sup>2</sup> Explanation: some of the Strict Nature Reserves are part of the National Parks; therefore, the figure is mathematically not correct.

Currently, only few protected areas in Kosovo have management bodies; the majority does not have any management structures. The management of the National Park 'Sharri' is done by the Park Directorate located in Prizren, for the National Park 'Bjeshkët e Nemuna' the Park Directorate is in Peja. The Regional Park 'Gërmia' is managed from the public enterprise 'Horticultura'. 'Shpella e Gadimës' is managed by the Directorate in Gadime created by the MESP. All strict nature reserves 'Maja e Ropsit', 'Gubavci', 'Kozhnjeri', 'Malet e Prilepit', "Rusenica", "Maja e Arnenit" are within the NP Sharri and NP Bjeshkët e Nemuna and are under the Park Administrations. Other nature monuments are managed by municipality authorities. Only the NP Sharri has a approved Spatial Plan and also Management plan, the Spatial plan for the NP 'Bjeshkët e Nemuna' is under preparation and all other protected areas don't have a management plan.

#### **6.1.6 'Ex - situ' Conservation of Biodiversity**

Ex-situ conservation is the technique of conservation of all levels of biological diversity outside their natural habitats through different techniques like zoos, breeding in captivity, aquariums, botanical gardens, and gene banks. In Kosovo there is still no botanical garden, no arboretum and no zoo or any programmes for cultivation (breeding), keeping rare and endangered species outside their natural habitats. There are some efforts to create a Gene Bank for plant species within the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary in the University of Prishtina.

Until now there are no institutionalized practices for the 'ex - situ' conservation of species; only some private initiatives for keeping some species of wild fauna exist through the so called 'mini-zoo gardens'. A project worth to mention is the Bear Sanctuary Prishtina. The idea of this project was to gather all 13 brown bears kept in mini-zoos in various restaurants under extreme worse conditions throughout Kosovo and transfer them to the Bear Sanctuary offering more natural and animal-friendly conditions. The project is implemented by the Foundation for protection of animals VIER PFOTEN Kosova in cooperation with MESP, Municipality of Prishtina and with the support of Foundation for animals' welfare VIER PFOTEN International, with it's headquarters in Vienna, Austria. All bears are currently located in seven sectors with a total area of approximately 2 hectares. The general state of the bears at the moment of their arrival in the Bear Sanctuary is always very difficult as they are stressed and it turned out difficult to be learned to use the freedom and the conditions that were offered to them.

#### **6.1.7 Designation of Potential Areas for NATURA 2000 in Kosovo**

Kosovo is not a member of the European Union (EU) and is therefore not obliged to designate NATURA 2000 sites. Nevertheless, Kosovo signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Commission in July 2014, meaning that the country is now focusing on approximation of their national legislation with the *acquis communautaire* in general. The designation of NATURA 2000 sites - a time and resources consuming exercise - is in full line with this commitment and will be an inevitable step in the process of preparation for accession.

The National Programme for Implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (NPISAA) as of March 2016 declares that the transposition of EU Directives in the field of nature protection into national legislation is almost achieved and the remaining provisions, e.g. secondary legislation, will be gradually transposed. The document also includes several preparatory activities for the establishment of the NATURA 2000 network in it's short and medium term priorities, such as definition of clear boundaries between bio-geographic regions, field mapping and species inventories, etc.

Kosovo is not a Party to the Bern Convention, meaning that the Emerald Network has not been developed in the country. The Emerald Network is often used by the European Commission as the very first steps on the way to the identification of future NATURA 2000 sites. Already in 2008, a report of preliminary sites in Kosovo has been drafted within the 'Project of Sustainable Forest Management'.

There exists the Administrative Instruction No. 03/156 on the Proclamation of the Ecological Network signed by the Prime Minister in 2013, aiming to establish the national ecological network. NATURA 2000 is not directly mentioned in the document in the text, but it is clear that the ecological network covers mandatorily also habitat types and species of Community Interest as target conservation features for which appropriate conservation objectives shall be developed. The KINP is in charge of the establishment of the ecological network, respectively the NATURA 2000 network. Management of these areas shall be carried out by relevant administrations of PAs or municipalities outside the large-scale PAs. Arrangements for the management of NATURA 2000 sites outside any protected areas have to be agreed, as the Directives do not specifically ask for management plan, contractual arrangements with land owners/managers might be an option.

### **6.1.8 Initiative Cross Border Peace Park (Kosovo - Albania - Montenegro)**

In order to strengthen the nature protection at the regional level, Kosovo has been an active part in several initiatives, projects and research in the Western Balkan region, or even part of cross-border initiatives with neighboring countries.

The mountains and valleys of Kosovo, northern Albania and Montenegro share a landscape of wild beauty, exceptional flora and fauna, as well as a traditional lifestyle, that is almost unique in Europe and relatively unspoiled by modern development. However, it is a landscape under threat: from declining population, illegal logging and other environmental destruction. The establishment of a Balkans Peace Park would unite the existing communities of the three countries in preserving biodiversity and enabling local people to continue to live in the valleys, supported by sustainable tourism.

The initiative for declaration of a Cross Border Park has derived from civil society, from Non-Governmental Organizations. NGO 'Aquila' Pejë - Kosovë, NGO 'Intelektualët e Rinjë Shpresë' Shkodër - Albania, and NGO 'Hali' Rozhajë - Monte Negro have made first steps in this direction, and have found support of a number of activists from Colgate University in USA and Bradford in United Kingdom. The purpose of this initiative is the conservation of diverse natural heritage, cultural, promotion of peace and harmony between people and nature and to enable free movement beyond political borders by enabling sustainable development.

So far, this Cross-Border Park has not been established; nevertheless, relevant areas in the respective countries are under protection: Kosovo declared the National Park 'Bjeshkët e Nemuna' (Law No. 04/L-086 as of December 2012), Montenegro announced the National Park 'Prokletije', and the Albanian Government is in the process to declare the National Park Alps (the proclamation is foreseen in 2016).

### **6.1.9 Protection of Landscapes**

From geological point of view, Kosovo is placed in a very interesting territory, displaying a range of different geological strata. Starting from old rocky crystals in Proterozoic, till the aged rocky of

Quaternary, that include different types of sedimentary, magmatic rocky and metamorphic rocky that are less extended. In the past, and based on available data, several landscapes were put under legal protection, some of them are considered more important, such as 'Mirusha', 'Gërmia', natural monuments with geological importance, hydrological, landscape, speleological and botanic the Rugova gorge, Lumëbardhi gorge, etc.

Special attention should be given to such protected landscapes in case of mining activities; an Environmental Impact Assessment for planned activities is obligatory (see also 6.4.3). Kosovo still is not a signatory of the European Landscapes Convention (Florence 2000); nevertheless, the creation of a database for the state of landscapes in general shall be undertaken.

#### **6.1.10 Minerals and Fossils**

Kosovo is characterized by a complicated geological composition forming the basis of wide spectrum of sources of metal and non-metal minerals, of energetic sources, inert materials and different underground waters. Natural resources in Kosovo were once the 'backbone of industry'. However, output is currently low due to insufficient investments in equipment. Among the natural resources that were previously important in the Kosovo economy were minerals and metals, amongst others, lignite, aluminum, chrome, magnesium, nickel, lead, zinc, manganese, bauxite and several different construction materials. Furthermore, non-metal sources and inert minerals such as marl, dunite, lime, quartz, quartz sand, talc, asbestos, diabase, clay sand, etc.

#### **6.1.11 Biodiversity Indicators**

Many countries have made commitments to meet global targets for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, such as those set out in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the CBD, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and objectives of other multilateral environmental agreements. In order to evaluate progress towards these goals, measurable indicators of changes in biodiversity status are needed, as well as data to inform them and the expertise to interpret and use the knowledge they provide.

Kosovo is missing such official national biodiversity indicators, which creates obstacles to the use of data and addressing issues of national priority. Such indicators will serve as tools to assess the state of biodiversity and threats to it. For the development of biodiversity indicators, guidance papers are available, e.g. from UNEP/WCMC.

##### **Main identified problems:**

- Lack of full inventories for flora, fauna and habitats (except the Red Book of Vascular Flora);
- Lack of Red List of fauna;
- Lack of human capacities for biodiversity research;
- Lack of national biodiversity indicators;
- Not all PAs have management administrations, spatial- and management plans;
- Insufficient budget for nature protection;
- Lack of capacities for accessing international funds and low absorption capacity.

##### **Priorities - Strategic Actions:**

- Research, inventories and mapping of species, habitats and protected landscapes;

- Establish database and Central Information System;
- Declaration of identified protected areas as IBAs (Important Bird Areas);
- Starting process and steps for designating NATURA 2000 sites;
- Preparation and adoption of spatial- and management plans for additional large protected areas by respecting conditions for nature protection;
- Development of national biodiversity indicators;
- Development of project concepts to be submitted to different donors (EU, bi-lateral, etc).

## **6.2 Education, communication, information and public participation**

### **6.2.1 Education**

The need for tailored activities to increase awareness as regards the importance of biodiversity is a long-term process, which has to involve all stakeholders. The challenges are partly the different education scales, what raises the need for improved education and communication. In the private sector and civil society, the protection and conservation of nature is often not correctly understood or not taken serious, leading to incorrect management practices resulting in negative impacts on the environment. Therefore, it is important to increase awareness through tailored campaigns and programmes and to train all relevant parties to effectively communicate issues related to biodiversity management.

The purpose of education, information and public participation is also to assist public authorities in achieving the objectives of the National Biodiversity Strategy. There is the need to encourage people and to develop education forms in all institutional and non-institutional levels for all citizens groups for the protection of biodiversity and landscape diversity.

The country is still facing socio-economic problems; one of the consequences is that biodiversity is not considered as a high priority in general education. Some steps forward have already been taken to improve education on environment and biodiversity and the situation is continuously improving. As we are obliged to leave biological and landscape diversity, rich as we have inherited, to future generations, the education about the importance of biodiversity is priority for MESP.

Improved education, information and communication are first steps in the process of social changes. If the context of the importance of biodiversity is better understood, this might contribute to change the public attitude towards environment and overtaking responsibility and more involvement in the protection and management of nature. To enhance the interest on nature protection, to understand the natural values of nature and the need for its conservation, existing school programmes require an improved educational content including practical work in field. Many initiatives exist in this respect, but have to be continuously supported:

- The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) launched a programme on education for sustainable development. This included the development and introduction of an innovative multimedia education kit, the ‘Green Pack’, for school teachers and their students in Central and Eastern Europe. In Kosovo school teachers on several levels were trained and equipped with the materials, the so-called ‘Green Package’. In addition, a programme was drafted and licensed for the training of teachers on the protection of the environment. Within this training, Green Clubs were established at school level. About 110 schools have benefited from this programme from 1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

- In addition, the MESP has made positive steps in the education sector related to environmental public awareness. New contents have been included in school materials, those didactic materials have been published, environmental education learning hours have been introduced, which is an ongoing process in Kosovo. Based on a new curricula frame of Kosovo starting from pre-school level, they offer first information for environment and biodiversity and the information will be tailored to the age of the pupils. This knowledge benefits all pupils through the courses and modules, as inter-curricular activities.
- Prishtina University is organizing summer seminars every year with national and international participants, distributing different materials for pupils and for education staff.
- There are some improvements in practice, some attractive approaches of lecturing and the activation of pupils and youth in environmental activities have been introduced in schools and communities. Unfortunately, there is lack of volunteers and inexperienced civil society for stronger actions in communities.

Besides these positive developments, there is still much to do in the sector. The compilation of education programmes, projects and the involvement of the wider public in the process of planning and managing biodiversity have to be developed, encouraged and implemented in the future. The civil society has to be informed about the Aarhus Convention (see also 2.2.8 and 6.2.2), which establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment.

Educational programmes have to be tailored to the different groups of ages, professions and public interests. Education for biodiversity has to start from the pre-school ages and preference should be given to work with children and with pupils of preliminary schools. The cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), Municipal Directorates for Education (MDE), and schools has to be strengthened. The production of additional, high quality didactic material for all citizen levels is of high importance. The establishment of environmental groups and associations should be settled in all schools in all education levels in Kosovo. For the improvement of biodiversity condition the following shall be considered:

- ↳ More tailored activities contributing to the protection of biodiversity;
- ↳ Education means creation of a positive attitude, critical opinion toward environment and especially of biodiversity, which should be enforced;
- ↳ Biodiversity-related education is quite complex; the increase of awareness with the purpose of protection, conservation, management and benefit from biological diversity and landscape is necessary;
- ↳ Education forms outside schools in fields of biodiversity and especially of some interest groups (agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, water management, transport, energy, tourism etc.) almost does not exist;
- ↳ Cooperation with municipalities is important in the educational sector and coordination has to be approved.

#### **Main identified problems:**

- Passive attitude of citizens toward biodiversity;

- Lack of funds for environmental education;
- None-involvement of teachers at all training levels on biodiversity issues;
- Not sufficient programmes and related materials for education related to biodiversity;
- Lack of cross-institutional cooperation and NGO for education on the protection of the environment.

### **Priorities – Strategic Actions:**

- Change of population's attitude toward biodiversity through tailored actions, e.g. the promotion of the importance for the conservation of threatened species;
- Use of financial means in more efficient forms and search funding from other sources;
- Further training programmes for teachers;
- Implementation of curricula at all levels based on the new curricula frame;
- Increase of cross-institutional cooperation and NGO's for environmental education.

### **6.2.2 Communication, information and public participation**

The level of awareness as regards the environment and specifically biodiversity and nature protection is extremely low in Kosovo. There is a clear need for improving communication and information about the values of biodiversity as well as the impacts of biodiversity loss on the environment and humans.

Information management in the field of biodiversity is assessed as a high importance for Kosovo. Considering the effective exchange and use of existing information will save time, money and energy, not enough appropriate attention has been given to this fact in the past.

There are positive steps as regards information sharing; campaigns organized by the MESP with respect to the internationally recognized green calendar, e.g. World Water Day, World Earth Day, International Biodiversity Day, World Environment Day etc., which are important instruments to improve communication and information. Unfortunately, only few other activities take place during the year, which is considered not sufficient.

Besides the publication of informative material and brochures, the sector has participated also in programmes of national and local radio and TV stations. But press and electronic media have no regular informative programmes on environment and biodiversity. Mainly, information is broadcast only in cases of ecological accidents (natural disasters, such as fires, flooding, etc.), but not in form of regular and prevention information. A part of information is done by the MESP through written inputs to press releases, brochures, newspaper, etc.

Participation of the public in decision-making would increase the quality and implementation of environment decision. In this field, the Aarhus Convention (see also 2.2.8) plays a major role. By appreciating the role of citizens, non-governmental organizations and private sector, the national legislation regulates the right of citizens. Legal provisions provide

- the right to access to environmental information;
- procedures to enable the public to submit comments and opinions (in written, or in verbal form during the specifically organized meetings, or in form of requests from applicants) and participate therefore in the process of decision-making;

- the right to review procedures to challenge public decisions that have been made without respecting the two aforementioned rights or environmental law in general (access to justice).

In cooperation with NGO's, municipalities, and other stakeholders meetings are organized and discussions with the public as regards new laws, strategies, spatial - and other plans as well as planned projects are held. Nevertheless, improvements in using this instrument for public participation are necessary and the information to the citizens as regards their rights has to be strengthened.

**Main identified problems:**

- Lack of professional communication and not sufficient information of the public regarding biodiversity;
- Lack of awareness and low public participation;
- Lack of coordination and cooperation between institutions that have to deal with the biodiversity;
- Lack of professional expertise in the field of communication and information.

**Priorities - Strategic Actions:**

- Development of special campaigns regarding awareness on biodiversity tailored to target groups, with an emphasis on children and youth;
- National Awareness Campaign;
- Cooperation with media, issues of thematic publications (handouts, brochures, posters etc);
- Creation of programmes for communication and information on biodiversity in relevant institutions;
- Building of professional expertise in the field of communication and information management in relevant institutions.

## **SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY - NATURAL RECOURSES**

Biodiversity is the basis of life on our planet, but it is degraded in alarming rates due to human pressures. The unsustainable use of natural resources presents a serious threat for humanity.

Economic activities are leading drivers of biodiversity loss, but at the same time, more and more business activities are depending on biodiversity. In principle, all activities have directly or indirectly affects on biodiversity.

### **6.3 Agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishery and tourism**

#### **6.3.1 Agriculture**

The agricultural sector is currently considered as very important and much governmental support is provided. The sector is mainly based on natural resources and may have noticeable negative impacts on biodiversity through the application of unsustainable management methods and outdated technologies. In contrary, it can bring benefits, in case environmental-friendly practices are applied. Usually, it is foreseen by establishing biological sanctuaries within farms, developing ecological networks around and between farms, reducing the change of habitats on farmland, and leaving pieces of agricultural land out of production, in order to achieve restoration of natural habitats and ensure sustainable practices in farming and usage of pastures.

In general, land in Kosovo is very fertile and suitable for agricultural production due to it's climatic conditions and other factors. The country's territory is divided into two regions: the Kosovo Plain, which is characterized by a continental climate with little influence of the Mediterranean climate with annual rainfall of about 600 mm, and the Dukagjini Plain characterized by Mediterranean climate with annual rainfall of 770 mm. The rainfall and soil fertility fulfill the conditions for a viable food production for the needs of the local population, but also for export of some agricultural products.

In Kosovo 61 % of the population lives in rural areas and 38 %<sup>3</sup> of the total territory is used as agricultural land, mainly structured in small-scale land plots, which is a main concern of the agricultural industry. The majority of the land is fertile but heavily degraded by mining activities of companies, such as KEK, Trepça and Feronikeli, specifically the left behind in industrial landfills. These landfills present a very threatening element for biodiversity and agricultural activities in their vicinity, due to the content of heavy metal residues. This is proven by tests of various agricultural crops. Besides industrial landfills, urban landfills and illegal waste disposal (in fields, forests, along roads, rivers, streams, illegal constructions, etc.) are great threats for fertile agricultural land and biodiversity. The biodiversity loss as regards the use of fertilizers and pesticides in agricultural activities are relatively low due to often unaffordable prices for the owner and therefore a reduced application.

In the Republic of Kosovo, agriculture is considered as one of the branches, which has direct and indirect impacts on maintaining biodiversity. Agriculture contributes with 11,9 %<sup>4</sup> to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). During the 50 and 70 of the last century, the goal was to increase the agricultural surface. Naturally, this had negative impacts on forests and forestland and of course, a negative impact on biodiversity in general. In Kosovo, the total surface of land in use is 512.000 hectares (owned or leased) with an average of 3,9 hectares of land for each agricultural household. In

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<sup>3</sup> Green Report 2015, December 2015

<sup>4</sup> Ibidem

2014, the land used for agricultural production was 413.635 ha or 80 % of total land area used by 129.884 farms with an average area of utilized agricultural land of 3,2 ha<sup>5</sup>.

Meadows and pastures represent 54 % of the area of agricultural land. The total area of meadows and pastures (including common land) is 224.411 ha, of which 71 % are grasslands. Average surface of pasture for grazing and agricultural economy is about 2,8 ha<sup>6</sup>. The extensive use of pastures and meadows had a positive impact on the richness of biodiversity, considered as natural or semi-natural habitats.

The data presented above show that Kosovo has very good conditions for biodiversity conservation, based on the results that about 54 % of the used agricultural land is classified as meadow and pasture and knowing that over 44,7 % of the surface of the land is covered by forest (see also 6.3.2).

Meadows and pastures occupy the largest percentage of utilized agricultural land, while the category of arable land has a share of 35 %. The cultivated crops in this category are distributed as follows: 73 % root fodder crops, 15,5 % vegetables, 3,7 % legumes for livestock, 2,4 % potatoes and 2,0 % other crops. Perennial crops cover 1,88 % or 7,788 ha of cultivated land, of which trees comprise 1,06 % respectively 4,390 ha, vines have a share of 0,78 % or 3.215 ha and nurseries 0,04 % that occupy an area of 183 ha<sup>7</sup>. Table 2 presents the division of main agricultural crops.

Year/ Crop	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Wheat	293,064	271,373	294,540	300,203	345,027	391,727	331,296
Corn	126,919	125,864	120,461	119,693	86,304	136,633	116,209
Barley	7,241	5,363	3,642	2,608	1,808	4,415	4,716
Rye	1,410	834	1,371	1,457	740	571	1,521
Oat	8,865	7,774	10,510	11,072	4,913	6,790	9,840
Potatoes	103,958	58,687	87,354	87,036	33,407	50,847	64,027
Tomato	20,587	15,107	60,318	62,358	13,693	17,291	17,386
Pepper	51,274	46,669	93,924	96,322	50,744	72,928	57,921
Apples	12,612	11,742	12,545	13,523	8,120	16,786	13,519
Pears	2,867	1,748	2,495	2,510	1,562	4,259	1,363
Quince	425	165	275	265	506	977	224
Plums	10,901	8,084	6,957	6,957	17,514	24,433	7,525
Sour Cherry	362	161	257	256	167	354	211
Cherry	419	301	255	255	1,175	381	793
Nuts	465	300	314	371	234	483	229
Straw-berry	439	180	294	270	275	465	965
Rasp-berry	3	4	2	1	1	105	529
Black-berry	8	124	73	73	73	-	107
Wine grapes	22,961	20,570	22,536	12,048	22,656	20,473	15,101
Table grapes	6,250	5,733	6,042	4,536	7,026	7,137	4,869

Table 2: Production of main agricultural crops for the past 7 years, expressed in tons (t)

Source: Household Survey ASK ('08 -13); The agricultural census ('14)

<sup>5</sup> Ibidem

<sup>6</sup> Ibidem

<sup>7</sup> Ibidem

In recent years Kosovo has increased the trend for forage grain harvested green according to the findings from 2014, including now an area up to 26.554 ha, with a production up to 151.095 t<sup>8</sup>.

Aromatic and medicinal plants constitute the crops used for pharmaceutical and human consumption, e.g. chamomile, basil, dill, lavender, peppermint, sage, etc. and other industrial crops are entering, such as soya, ricin, etc. In 2014, the total surface cultivated with such crops is 595 ha, where the major part or about 60 % is cultivated with sunflower, followed by medicinal and aromatic plants (35 %), other industrial cultures (4 %) and tobacco by only 1 %, which in the past was cultivated in a much larger surface (somewhere over 3,000 ha)<sup>9</sup>.

Livestock is one of the other agricultural sectors through which many households generate income for their families. This agricultural sector is constantly evolving and is giving good results in development of commercial agriculture in the country. Trends in intensive cattle farming in closed environments are growing. Obviously, this will have a major impact on biodiversity in pasture land, left uncultivated.

Table 3 provides an overview of livestock farming in 2014.

No	Type of animal	Unit	Number/heads	Percentage %
1.	Cattle	Heads	261,689	0,52
2.	Sheep	//	183,584	0,36
3.	Goats	//	28,430	0,055
4.	Pigs	//	34,188	0,057
5.	Horses, donkeys, mules	//	2,980	0,007
<b>Total:</b>			<b>510,871</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Other categories</b>				
1.	Poultry	Pieces	2,692	100
2.	Fish from ponds	tons	610	100
3.	Bees	hives	116,172	100

Table 3: Overview of livestock farming in 2014

Source: KAS Agriculture Census 2014

The surface of land 4,729 ha or 2.6 % is identified as degraded. In the rest of 3 % other cultivated plants, which include industrial and aromatic plants, ornamental plants, plants for the production of seeds and seedlings for sale, etc. The same percentage is covered by two other categories of land, classified as non-agricultural land (3 %) and agricultural land without usage 3 %<sup>10</sup>.

During the last twenty years, a strong movement of local population from remote areas to urban centers can be observed. In this context, forest vegetation is expanding on previous grazing areas, of course, with negative impacts on biodiversity as many plant and animal species decreased and disappeared with the reduction of the natural grassland habitat.

<sup>8</sup> Kosovo Agency of Statistics – Agriculture Census 2014

<sup>9</sup> KAS Agriculture Census 2014

<sup>10</sup> Kosovo Agency of Statistics – Agriculture Census 2014

In Kosovo agricultural land is in the process of privatization. Out of it, 88 % are privatized and 12 %, which is public land remains un-privatized, as it was in the early 90'-ies<sup>11</sup>. Privatization is associated with numerous contradictions and problems. From 2003, the process started also with privatization of Socially Owned Enterprises (SOEs), which now is in its final stage.

#### **6.3.1.1 Agrobiodiversity**

As defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), agrobiodiversity (also known as agricultural biodiversity) is the result of natural selection processes and the careful selection and inventive developments of farmers, herders and fishers over millennia. Agrobiodiversity is a vital sub-set of biodiversity. Agrobiodiversity represents diversity between animals, plants and micro-organisms important for agricultural production. This field is most critical, as countless plant species are used for human food and livestock and therefore, many people's food and livelihood security depend on the sustained management of various biological resources that are important for food and agriculture.

For the fulfillment of basic needs, man has realized the intersection of species (varieties) of various plant and animal breeds in order to increase their productivity. This issue has resulted with sidelines of plant species and indigenous livestock breeds with low productivity or, in other words, these species are extinct. In Kosovo, public authorities need to devote a higher importance to the preservation of native species and safeguarding of national germoplasma for scientific research. It is known that many varieties of 'old' wheat, corn and fruit with low productivity have been shelved or are underrepresented; indigenous cattle breeds such as Busha (cattle), Bardhoka sheep, buffaloes etc., they are much less present in livestock numbers. Special attention should be given to the Sharri Dog (Illyrian Sheep Dog) as an autochthon race of sheep dog with particular value.

A further important branch of agriculture is currently in its initial stages, the development of organic agriculture. *'Organic Agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic Agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.'*<sup>12</sup>

Topography, landscape, geological and pedological and climatic conditions have created conditions for rich vegetation and very interesting medicinal and aromatic plants and wild fruit trees. There is a great potential for successful development of these types of products to meet the domestic demand and export to foreign markets and assist in the sustainable use of these plants and the conservation of their natural habitats.

#### **6.3.1.2 Genetically Modified Organisms / GMOs**

In Kosovo, there are no complete or updated data regarding the presence of GMOs, neither for plants and nor for animals. Until now, Kosovo has no legal framework that would regulate the field of GMOs. The MAFRD as the responsible institution has drawn up a draft law that shall regulate the field of GMOs, but the law is not yet approved. So these types of organisms represent a major threat to the development of organic farming which is currently being promoted. Without data about possible risks and negative impacts on the environment and humans, the use is not advisable. Of

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<sup>11</sup> Green Report 2015, December 2015

<sup>12</sup> Definition by IFOAM - Organics International

course, the possibility of introducing GMOs via illegal routes cannot be excluded. Furthermore, Kosovo still lacks a laboratory for testing and development of GMOs, which obviously complicates and increases the risk of 'contamination' of the agriculture, which might have negative effects on biodiversity.

#### **Main identified problems:**

- Loss and fragmentation of agricultural land; about 800 – 1.000 hectares are lost annually, conversion of agricultural land into construction land has also negative impacts on biodiversity;
- High level of current and inherited pollution of agricultural land from waste dumps, landfills, former mining activities;
- Lack of cooperation and weak cooperation between;
- Lack of appropriate training for farmer on the maintenance of biodiversity during agricultural activities.

#### **Priorities - Strategic actions:**

- Reducing the root causes of biodiversity loss on agricultural land;
- Preserve representative areas of natural habitat characteristics by applying traditional agriculture;
- Strengthen the cooperation between farmers and stimulate agro-production that supports biodiversity;
- Farmers to be involved in informal education on the importance of biodiversity, especially regarding the negative impacts of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

### **6.3.2 Forests and forestry sector**

Forests affect our daily lives in more ways than we can imagine. Forests provide habitats to different animal and plant species and they form the source of livelihood for humans; they offer watershed protection, timber and non-timber products, and various recreational options; they prevent soil erosion, help in maintaining the water cycle reducing the risk of flooding and desertification, and check global warming by using carbon dioxide in photosynthesis.

Kosovo's second National Forest Inventory (NFI) was carried out in 2012/2013, ten years after the first. For the first time the entire forest area has been assessed. The purpose of NFI is to provide information for the government to helping develop the forest sector, to assess forest management sustainability and to fulfill potential international reporting obligations in the land use-, land use change- and forestry sectors.

Forest area in Kosovo is stable at approximately 481.000 ha (44,7 % of total area). Data show that the forest area has increased by 5 % (20.000 ha), probably forests habitats have grown at the account of agricultural land. Figure 3 shows the forest coverage in Kosovo and Figure 4 timber harvesting in Rugovë.



Figure 3: Forest coverage in Kosovo  
 Source: KEPA State of Nature Report 2006-2007



Figure 4: Timber harvesting in Rugovë

About 38 % of the forest area is privately owned, whereas 62 % is public forest. Coppice forest dominates the forest area with 84 %. Pure broadleaved forests cover almost 83 % of the forest area; the dominant species is beech, coniferous forests cover 7 % of forestland and there dominates fir and pine.

Growing stock of trees with diameter at breast height  $\geq 7$  cm stands at 40.5 million m<sup>3</sup>, about the same as ten years ago. Amongst the trees, *Fagus* species contribute 46 % of the volume, whereas *Quercus* species represent 23 %. Mean growing stock in Kosovo is 84 m<sup>3</sup>/ha. An analysis performed on 60 % of the forest area documents, that harvesting of an average 950.000 m<sup>3</sup> every year has taken place. Consequently, annual harvest may roughly be estimated at 1.6 million m<sup>3</sup>. Only a small fraction of the harvesting (7 %) is carried out according to forest legislation. At national level, it seems that annual removals and natural losses of wood are balanced by gross annual increment. Based on the share of degraded high forest and results from recent forest management planning, in certain areas over-harvesting has taken place. Since 2006, the development of new cost-efficient forest management plans (FMPs) is a priority for the Kosovo government.

Kosovo forests are tree species rich. 132.000 ha (27,5 %) of the forest area is stocked with four or more species. Almost the entire forest area (99 %) shows some kind of human influence. As much as 90 % of growing stock in coniferous forest and mixed coniferous/broadleaved forest are located within the two National Parks 'Sharri' and 'Bjeshkët e Nemuna'.

Fire is the most significant disturbance to forest stands. An area of 12.200 ha, or 2,5 % of total forest area was found to be seriously affected by fire, which has impacts on biodiversity.

In addition, uncontrolled activities or illegal activities have impacts on forest biodiversity. The situation is critical especially in coniferous forests, where the whole existence of forest is in danger, if measures are not immediately undertaken. Results of the inventory also confirm that coppice forests,

specially the public ones are subject to excessive use by locals. Furthermore, results show that there is an urgent need for silvicultural interventions in many young forests and those with medium age.

Collection of medicinal and aromatic plants, wild mountain fruit and mushrooms often is done without criteria causing pressure on biodiversity. Medicinal plants collected, often also for commercial purposes are: Medical sage (*Salvia officinalis*), Juniper brush (*Juniperus communis* L.), Curry plant (*Helichrysum italicum* L.), Primrose (*Primula veris* L.), Elder (*Sambucus negra*), Grape of the bear (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi* L), Lime (*Tilia cordata* Mill.), Wild Rose (*Rosa canina* L.). As regards wild fruits, Blueberries (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) and strawberry are collected and mushrooms, such as (*Boletus edulis*) and Girolle (*Cantharellus cibarius*). As regards quantities that are collected, there are no precise data. There is the urgent need to create a legal basis as soon as possible with the purpose of decrease of negative impacts from collection of medical and aromatic plants on biodiversity.

### **Main identified problems:**

- Weak enforcement of forest legislation;
- Unsustainable forest management, weak and without professional standards;
- Unclear management responsibilities for their implementation in horizontal and vertical level;
- Many illegal forest activities;
- Lack of management plans for broadleaf forests;
- Failure to implement forest certification due to the presence of illegal logging.

### **Priorities - Strategic Actions**

- Strengthen the implementation of the Forest Law;
- Implement forest management by applying sustainable management standards;
- Clarify competences for forest management its implementation in horizontal and vertical level,
- Undertake measures to reducing illegal activities in forests;
- Develop Management Plans for low forests;
- Introduce measures for forest certification, e.g. FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) according to the international standards.

### **6.3.3 Hunting**

Hunting is one of the oldest ways for humans to use natural resources and as such has an influence on animal and plant species as well as on ecosystems. Hunting is a very important sector of forestry and can influence biodiversity in positive aspects (balanced) or negative aspects (losses). It may also be a potential source of conflict with other forms of use of natural resources (e.g. forestry, agriculture, recreation). In this context, the issue of the sustainability of hunting arises.

Sustainability of hunting means that the use of natural resources (animal species and their habitats) must be assured not only in the present but also to future generations. When hunting is organized in a sustainable manner, the influence on wild populations and their habitats will be positive.

Kosovo is rich in wildlife species and provides suitable habitat conditions, due to its geographical location and relatively good protection of the environment. Due to the human activities, some wildlife species are decreasing in numbers and become threatened species. Their protection is obligatory by international law and all relevant institutions have to establish appropriate means to protect the concerned species and its habitat.

By analyzing data of wild animals in Kosovo, it can be concluded that the majority of animal species are at low or medium population numbers, except populations of wild boars, which is considered to be increased. It shows that for some species, the ecological balance is disturbed and species become endangered, caused by different factors, but mainly by human activities. To achieve accurate data for Kosovo it is necessary to have a nation-wide inventory of wildlife, including migratory species. Special attention should be given to species that are already threatened and endangered, for example, chamois, lynx, wolf, bear, Great wild chicken, eagles, etc. Table 4 provides an overview about status and number of wild animals in Kosovo.

Species of wild animals	Status 1 - 2 - 3	Numbers
Red deer ( <i>Cervus elaphus</i> )	1	300 - 400
Fallow deer ( <i>Dama dama</i> )	(Special Hunting Reserve)	160
Roe deer ( <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> )	1 - 2	5.000 - 6.000
Wild goat ( <i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i> )	1	400 - 500
Wild boar ( <i>Sus strofa</i> )	3	6.000 - 10.000
Brown bear ( <i>Ursus arctos</i> )	1 - 2	80 - 100
Wolf ( <i>Canis lupus</i> )	1 - 2	up to 100
Lynx ( <i>Lynx lynx</i> )	1	20 - 25
Hare ( <i>Lepus europaeus</i> )	1 - 2	5.000 - 10 000
Capercaillie ( <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> )	1	?
Common Peasant ( <i>Phasianus sp.</i> )	2	5.000 - 10 000
Field peasant ( <i>Perdixperdix</i> )	1 - 2	5.000
Geese ( <i>Anatidae</i> )	1	?

Table 4: Status and numbers of wild animals in Kosovo  
 Assessment of status: 1 = Small number; 2 = Good; 3 = Very good  
 Source: MAFRD, Forestry Department

Kosovo has spatial and environmental potential for hunting animals and for establishing of hunting sites and their management. If approximately 200.000 ha are excluded, in which there are settlements, roads and buildings and where it is not possible to hunt, then nearly 900.000 ha remain for hunting grounds. On the territory of Kosovo four hunting sites are established, as site of special interest for hunting, in a total surface of 73.300 ha, which covers approximately 8 % of the total area, suitable for hunting management.

The two National Parks (Sharri and Bjeshkët e Nemuna) should be exempted from hunting as this category of protected area is created in order to protect the flora and fauna in the parks; therefore, it is not legally permitted to create hunting areas.

Based on the Kosovo Law on Hunting, there exists the possibility to establish joint hunting areas, special hunting area and private hunting areas. In joint hunting areas, hunting can take place for scientific, touristic, recreational sports and economic purposes. With the consent of the municipalities and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, currently 29 joint hunting areas in

23 municipalities are established. From that, 8 municipalities have taken steps to award the management of joint hunting areas and the resulting total of 12 joint hunting areas are granted for 10 years management<sup>13</sup>. In addition, two special hunting areas exist, Dubočak and Blinaja, which are administered and managed by the state. So far, no company or private person has taken steps to apply for the establishment of a private hunting area.

#### **Main identified problems:**

- Illegal hunting is a reality in Kosovo; most 'hunters' don't have the knowledge about possible impacts of illegal/unsustainable hunting on biodiversity;
- There is no monitoring of species that are listed in the Annexes of the EU Nature Directives, the Habitats and Birds Directives;
- Weak cooperation with courts, police and other relevant institutions as regards illegal activities;
- Lack of professional personnel in hunting area;
- Lack of Management Plans for big mammals, such as bear, wolf, lynx, etc.

#### **Priorities – Strategic Actions:**

- Efficient implementation of hunting law and drafting of Management Plans, specifically for endangered big mammals (chamois, bear, wolf, lynx, wild cat);
- Elaborating studies on species represent in Kosovo and that are listed in Annexes of the EU Nature Directives;
- Harmonization of the Hunting Law with requirements of nature protection, specifically of the EU Nature Directives.

#### **6.3.4 Fishery**

Kosovo has considerable freshwater sources. In most of the rivers, recreative sport fishing takes place, without any great economic benefit. The ecological status of rivers is not satisfactory because of environmental pollution and big damages in riverbeds due to the extraction of sand and gravel and building equipment for cleaning and processing of sand along the riverbeds.

Development of aquaculture in Kosovo dates back to the 60s. Originally, the amount of fish production in 30 fishponds was very small, but in 2014 has gone up to 610 t/year<sup>14</sup>. Kosovo trout is mainly consumed in hotels, while in the markets, fresh fish is rarely offered. In previous years, the production of trout increased significantly, but this doesn't have a significant impact on wild birds feeding on fish and on the freshwater ecosystem, as the production is organized in artificial pools and only very few numbers of trout are taken from rivers. The management is not based on any fish management plans drawn up by scientific research institutions.

According to the analysis of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, taking into account local production of fish in ponds as well as import of fresh fish and frozen meat, the consumption of fish is 0,8 kg/capita, compared with the neighboring countries this is below the average consumption.

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<sup>13</sup> Notes, MAFRD, Forestry Department

<sup>14</sup> Green Report 2015 December 2015

**Main identified problems:**

- Lack of an accurate inventory of fish stocks;
- Lack of implementation of the Law and respecting rules for fishing;
- The continued degradation and pollution of freshwater ecosystems cause a decrease in the number of fish populations.

**Priorities - Strategic Actions:**

- Carry out an inventory of fish stocks;
- Control and stop illegal fishing in close cooperation between MAFRD, MESP and Fishing Associations;
- Stop the exploitation of gravel from riverbeds to decrease erosion and pollution.

**6.3.5 Tourism**

Nature tourism can offer huge opportunities for development and is the second important sector, after agriculture, in Kosovo. Tourism is often considered as an alternative for intensive agriculture, forestry or fishing. Usually, private owners and businesses do not care much about nature and biodiversity and their protection, but especially ecotourism initiatives heavily depend on the health of surrounding ecosystems. There are several examples, where the protection of biodiversity is linked with an increase of revenues for tourism operators, either private or business companies.

During the last decades, tourism in Kosovo was not a growing economic sector, although economic development is one of the main goals of the Government of Kosovo. Studies indicate that tourism has a high potential for development, specifically with respect to the promotion of protected areas and their natural heritage values. The tourism sector has the potential to bring economic growth and employment creation, if carefully planned.

There is a need for a national tourism strategy to provide a strategic framework and outline action plan to guide the Tourism Division in the Ministry of Trade and Industry and other stakeholders in the development of the tourism sector in future. It should provide an overview about actual condition, the benefits to society but also threats for biodiversity and should lead the country to offer competitive, tourism packages in the region.

Kosovo is divided in five touristic regions:

- Central Region of Prishtina;
- Touristic Region of Albanian Alps (Bjeshkët e Nemuna);
- Touristic Region of Sharri;
- Touristic Region of Anamorava;
- Touristic Region of Mitrovica.



Figure 5: Map displaying the five touristic regions in Kosovo  
 Source: Ministry of Trade and Industry, Tourism Division

Tourism development and touristic capacities have to be carefully planned. The increase of the number of visitors in protected areas often threatens sensitive ecosystems and valuable natural habitats, with this also the plants and animals. For this reason, a detailed analysis shall be done regarding the carrying capacity and tourism impacts on these areas and on specific species of plants and animals.

Sustainable tourism and ecotourism present an ideal framework for tourism development in general. Ecotourism is a form of tourism involving visiting fragile, pristine, and relatively undisturbed natural areas, intended as a low-impact and often small-scale alternative to standard commercial (mass) tourism. Its purpose may be to educate the traveler, to provide funds for ecological conservation, to directly benefit the economic development and political empowerment of local communities, or to foster respect for different cultures and for human rights. Kosovo has a high potential for ecotourism development, but it is still in the initial phase.

Based on actual studies there exist very good conditions for the increase of touristic centers for winter-sport tourism. The two touristic regions 'Bjeshkët e Nemuna' and 'Sharri' have a high potential for development of this tourism in their third zones. Studies estimate that the first one can host up to 129.000 visitors and 'Sharri' up to 113.000 visitors per year. Considering that these two regions are at same time the biggest floristic and fauna centers in Kosovo, tourism development in these areas might have negative impacts on the conservation of biodiversity. The positive side of this is that revenues can be created, but it has to be ensured that these revenues are invested in the protection of nature and also for the construction of environmentally friendly infrastructure, and also used for scientific investigations and monitoring.

#### **Main identified problems:**

- Lack of strategy for tourism development in Kosovo;
- No baseline studies on possible negative impacts of tourism on biodiversity;
- Establishment of touristic infrastructure without respecting environment rules;
- Insufficient touristic infrastructure, lack of roads in some areas, lack of touristic signs, lack of advertising material and maps, information centers, no management of waste and control of pollution;
- Lack of adequately trained staff for tourism in PAs, the education system is not adapted to the market needs;
- Lack of cross-institutional cooperation between public and private sectors;
- Lack of eco-standards and nature-friendly standards.

#### **Priorities - Strategic Actions:**

- Development of a strategy for sustainable and environmental-friendly tourism promoting the natural heritage and landscape as unique values;
- Impact studies and analysis of the carrying capacity of protected areas;
- Development of standards and criteria for eco-tourism in protected areas;
- Investments in touristic infrastructure, including roads, walking and bicycle paths, information signs, information center, defining/making the borders in NPs visible, etc.;
- During the construction of touristic infrastructure, procedures of the Environmental Impact Assessment have to be applied and the carrying capacity has to be taken into account;
- Review of the education system and organization of professional training based on market needs and taking nature protection into account;
- Improve the inter-ministerial cooperation and cross-institutional cooperation, increase of cooperation with the private sector, organization of informative campaigns with people living in or next to PAs.

## **6.4 Waters, transport, mines and energy**

### 6.4.1 Water

Good management of freshwater sources can have an important impact on the conservation of biodiversity. One of the main problems in Kosovo are degraded riverbeds due to sand and gravel extraction and pollution in general. Protection, conservation and development of water resources is very important and one of the biggest environmental challenges of Kosovo.

Kosovo has insufficient reserves of water, which in the future will be a limiting factor for economic development. It is estimated that Kosovo has only 1600 m<sup>3</sup> water/ year / per capita, while the requests for water are increasing more and more. This is directly linked with the demographic increase, life conditions, industrial capacity and agriculture needs. Furthermore, economical development and the increase of living standards increase additionally higher requests for water. In this aspect is very important that the water has to be used in an efficient manner, measures have to be undertaken in this aspect. This remains a key issue for social and economical development of the country as well as for biodiversity.

Topographic surface of water in Kosovo is 11.645 km<sup>2</sup>, from which 10.908 km<sup>2</sup>, are in territory of Kosovo, and the surface from 758 km<sup>2</sup>, is outside of the country. Kosovo is divided into four water basins<sup>15</sup>, which discharge waters in three seas: Adriatic Sea (Drini Bardhë river basin), Black Sea (river basins Ibri and Morava e Binçës) Egean Sea (Lepenci river basin). Main rivers are: Drini i Bardhë (122 km), Sitnica (90), Lumbardhi i Pejës (62), Morava e Binçës (60), Lepenci (53), Ereniku (51) Ibri (42), Lumbardhi i Prizrenit (31).

Annual average of rainfalls is approximately 600 mm in lowlands and around 1.400 mm in mountains. Groundwater reserves are limited and found mainly in western parts of Kosovo. Kosovo has few natural lakes. Artificial lakes are Batlava, Ujëmani, Radoniqi, Perlepnica and Badovci, which, waters are used for water supply for the population, industry, agriculture, etc. Kosovo has important sources of thermal waters that are being used for healing purposes and recreation. Because of the minor surfaces, wetlands in Kosovo have not high priority, although wetland habitats provide important feeding and breeding ground for bird species, specifically they are important for migratory birds. Figure 6 shows the hydrography and Figure 7 the main river basins in Kosovo.

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<sup>15</sup> Sustainable use of water resources based on Water Framework Directive 2000/60EC

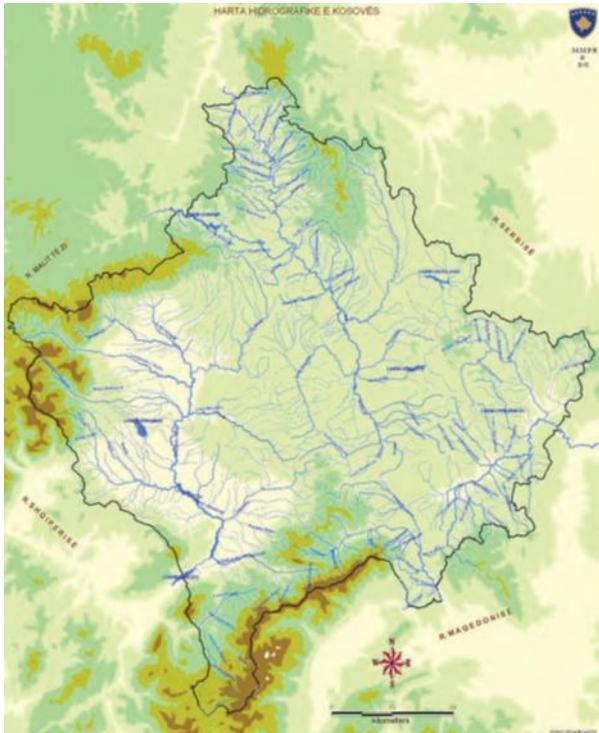


Figure 6: Hydrography of Kosovo  
Source: State of Nature Report 2015

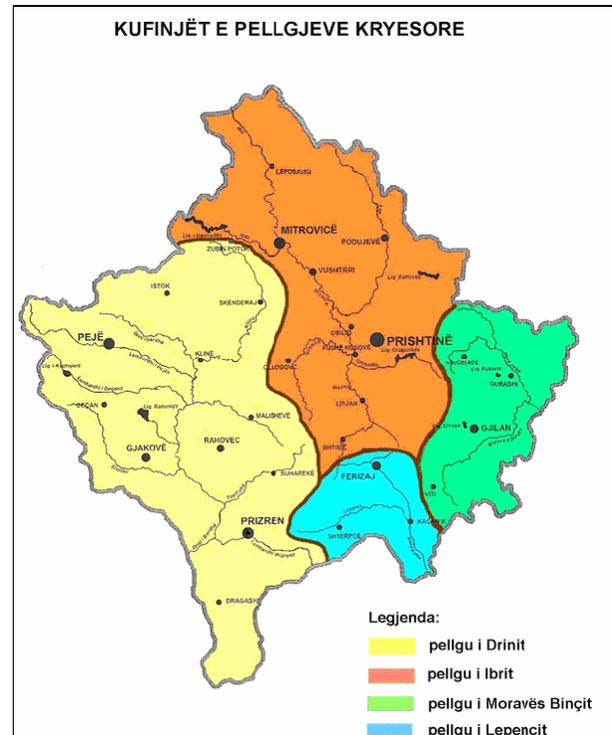


Figure 7: Main river basins in Kosovo  
Source: ISP, Spatial Plan for Kosovo 2010 – 2020+

In Kosovo, four dams of 40 meters height exist (Ujëmani, Batllava, Radoniqi and Badovci). From these, Ujëmani and Radoniqi are dams that have multiple purposes, while Graçanka, Përlepnica and Batllava are used only for the water supply. Besides the big hydroelectric power stations, requests for the establishing of small hydropower installations in mountain areas are extremely increasing. In general, the MESP is not in favor of this development and is prohibiting hydropower development in protected areas.

Kosovo is in its final stage to approve the National Water Strategy 2015 – 2034, which was drafted pursuant to Article 31 of the Law on Waters of Kosovo.

Still there is not enough information about underground water. Until now, the use of underground waters is done through water wells or through springs, in the majority of cases from hilly-mountain areas. Only around 31 % of population is connected to the sewage network. Polluted waters are discharged untreated to the environment. There are no water treatment installations. Therefore, the majority of rivers are over polluted and biodiversity in rivers is very low. Besides polluted waters and the use of mineral fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture, another problem exists in Kosovo: the industrial pollution from the past; all of them have serious negative impacts on biodiversity.

Activities of sand and gravel extraction in river beds is leading to erosion and has negative impacts on biodiversity through destruction of natural habitats. During the planning of water infrastructure, the procedures of the Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment (AA) according to the Habitats Directive have to be respected.

#### Main identified problems:

- There is a loss of biodiversity of flora and water fauna as a consequence of urban, agriculture and industrial pollution;
- Insufficient water supply, especially during dry periods;
- There is weak or limited cooperation between stakeholders;
- The security of dams is a potential problem with possible negative effects in biodiversity;
- Infrastructure constructions for the production of hydro-energy;
- Extraction of sand and gravel from riverbeds presents a threat for water biodiversity.

#### **Priorities – Strategic Actions:**

- Construction of water treatment plants;
- Prohibit activities contributing to the destruction of river ecosystems;
- Develop River Basin Management Plans;
- Increase the safety of dams and decrease its impacts in ecosystem;
- Increase the cooperation between water and nature inspectorates;
- Correct implementation of the procedures of Strategic Environment Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment and specially where activities are planned and undertaken in water areas and wetlands.

#### **6.4.2 Transport**

Within the territory of the Republic of Kosovo over 2.000 km regional (magistral) roads and over 5.000 km of local roads exist. The road infrastructure is estimated as partially damaged, not appropriate and not sufficient toward the needs. Construction of new roads especially highways will have a negative impact on natural habitats, e.g. due to fragmentation and decrease of their quality because of noise and light, if not carefully planned. A considerable number of wild animals are accidentally killed by traffic, also leading to biodiversity loss. During the last years, a large number of roads have been constructed and this endangers even more wild animals.

The Ministry of Infrastructure is responsible for road development and traffic in the country and aims to create an integrated transport system for all Kosovars by enabling them to select the transport means that fulfill their needs, and taking environmental issues into account through close cooperation with other sectors.

Plans for transport present the basis for the selection and development of transport projects. Anyhow, these plans often are developed without any detailed review as required by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and SEA is not applied accordingly for old infrastructure. This in following creates heavy problems in the realization of some important projects, if not their preclusion, because of negative environmental consequences.

The protection of the environment is one of the aims of Ministry of Infrastructure and has to implement procedures outlined in the Law on Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and the Law on Environment Impact Assessment (EIA). It is obligatory drafting of an assessment report for all new projects considering the harmonization of economical development and social welfare with basic principles for protection of the environment and aspects of biodiversity by the concept for sustainable development. Special importance is given to protected areas, which are most important for the conservation of biodiversity, ecosystems, species, genetic variety and ecological network.

**Main identified problems:**

- Loss or fragmentation of natural habitats with degrading results on the quality of habitats (Kosovo does not have yet any overpass for wild animals);
- Destruction of landscape through roads constructions without fulfilling environment standards (without applying SEA and EIA);
- Lack of appropriate road signs indicating the crossings of wild animals.

**Priorities – Strategic Actions:**

- Construction of roads by respecting environment procedures;
- Building overpasses to avoid fragmentation of habitats of wild animals;
- Installing appropriate road signs at frequently used wildlife corridors.

**6.4.3 Mines**

Kosovo is a country with considerable richness in minerals presenting another pressure on biodiversity and landscape diversity. There exist considerable quantities of minerals, such as Lignite (for energy production), Nickel, Zinc, Plumbum, Gold, Silver, Chrome, etc. Furthermore, other substances used in constructions, such as limestone, sand of rivers, gravel, clay, etc. are explored in the majority of cases with negative impacts on the environment.

As a result of previous exploitation of minerals a lot of mines are exhausted and have remained without any remediation, reclamation and restoration. This has visible impacts on the landscape, often also within protected areas. Mining activities have a considerable negative impact on biodiversity causing pollution and destruction of natural habitats. Until now, the following rehabilitation projects have been carried out:

- Cleaning project and re-cultivation of soil on land owned by KEK, a major project financed from the World Bank and the Government of Kosovo;
- Rehabilitation of industrial remains from Plumbum – Zinc mines in Artanë;
- Rehabilitation of industrial remains from Plumbum – Zinc mines (Trepçë) in village Kelmend;
- Pilot project for filling abandoned wells in Plumbum – Zinc mines in Trepçë using ashes from KEK mining activities as filling material.

**Main identified problems:**

- Degraded natural habitats in PAs due to the large number of illegal activities of quarry companies;
- Closed mines, which remain without remediation, reclamation and restoration and present a permanent risk for erosion and have impacts also for wild animals;
- Lack of financial means for the rehabilitation of abandoned mines;
- No cooperation between industry and authorities responsible for environment.

**Priorities – Strategic Actions:**

- Establish a data base of all mines (legal and illegal) in territory of protected areas;

- Increase cooperation of mines (industry) and nature protection inspectors and between local and central level;
- Include nature protection requirements in relevant programmes and plans as regards the extraction of mineral resources;
- Support pilot projects for the rehabilitation of closed mines in general and specifically within protected areas.

#### 6.4.4 Energy

The energy sector presents one of sectors that has visible impacts on biodiversity and landscape diversity. Actual production is mainly based on energy generated by thermal power plants (97 %), very little from hydro power plants (3 %), and energy from alternative sources is negligible. Based on the Energy Strategy (2009 – 2018), renewal sources, such as water, sun, wind, and biomass should be used in future (20 % by 2020). Another important aspect is saving energy by using efficient systems. The strategy promotes energy efficiency in all energetic system, from generation until the consumer. Negative impacts on biodiversity during the construction of objects and during operation should be minimized. In this context, environmental standards and procedures of the Environmental Impact Assessment have to be respected.

Historically, energy production and mining have been the pillars of Kosovo's economy, by offering employment and generating revenue, creating benefits from export and contributions to other industries. The production of electric energy in Kosovo today depends nearly fully on the thermal power plants 'A' and 'B', which use the lignite. Studies clearly illustrate the negative environmental impacts from lignite mines in Kosovo. One study, carried out in 2007, investigated the impacts on fauna and flora with the results that especially plant species (wood, bushes and herbs) in respective areas are heavily affected. But also protected and threatened animal species such as *Ciconia ciconia*, *Anas querquedula*, *Tringa tetanus* have been negatively impacted. Worth to mention are also two endangered species, *Crex crex* and *Ixobrychus minutus*, both listed in Annex I of the Bird Directive.

The Energy Strategy for Kosovo foresees the opening of a new mine in Siboc as well as the construction of a new thermal power plant. A considerable surface is occupied from ex-chemical industry, which produced gas from lignite and KEK reopened the mines of Sitnica in 2008 – 2009. The realization of such big projects in the energy sector will result in the occupation of new large surfaces in near future, which will also become degraded and will contribute to the loss of biodiversity. For example, the planned lignite mine of Siboc located southwest of the thermo power plant 'New Kosova' – today's land surface is 2.900 hectares – will occupy additional 800 hectares till the year of 2033.

Through lignite extraction in the past a big hole, approximately 500 hectares, remains in the northern part of Siboc, which in a long-term view (40-50 years), will be an attractive lake with a green belt around for recreative activities.

Ministry of Economic Development (MED) supports the development of energy by promoting and producing electric energy from renewable sources based on the obligations that this sector has according to the Energy Community Treaty (ECT) and *environmental acquis*.

Kosovo has finished a feasibility study on potential hydropower capacities, identifying 18 locations for the production of electricity from hydro power plants with small capacity (smaller than 10 MW). Those are planned mainly in protected areas, but the MESP does not accept this. The study

also describes the effects that these small hydropower plants on the environment and specially on biodiversity. The study states that, comparing with big thermal power plants, the impact of these small hydropower stations will not be significant or will not have any impact on the environment, as electricity production will not depend on the creation of huge water reservoirs, but will be from flowing channels, what evidently decrease the impact on environment.

Another feasibility study, financed by the World Bank (WB), for the Hydro Central (HC) – Zhuri with 305 MW capacity and annual average production of 397,59 GW has been finalized. New hydro centrals of this type, with high capacity and accumulating huge amounts of water, definitely will have an impact on environment, firstly, by occupying considerable surfaces of fertile land and forest areas, and secondly, by endangering flora and fauna in these areas.

#### **Main identified problems:**

- Pollution of soil from the past, leaving behind big surfaces of degraded land;
- Polluted water from industries have been and remain a permanent source of environment pollution and destruction of freshwater ecosystems;
- Destructed landscapes with degraded soils from landfills and from subsequently secondary industrial infrastructure;
- The current energy production is mainly based on lignite and the motivation to invest in renewable sources to achieve required standards and diversification of energy types is very low.

#### **Priorities – Strategic Actions:**

- Restoring of degraded landscapes (landfills) to minimize negative impacts on the freshwater ecosystem;
- SEA and EIA procedures have to be applied for programmes and projects in the energy sector;
- Issuing spatial plans for new mining sites, which include measures and conditions for nature protection;
- Support initiatives for the development of renewable energy;
- When establishing new wind farms, important bird area and their migration corridors have to be avoided;
- When constructing high power lines, use technical solutions, which may reduce bird kills through electric shocks to a minimum.

## **6.5 Spatial planning and Environmental Impact Assessment**

### **6.5.1 Spatial planning**

The Law on Spatial Planning No. 04/L-174 has the purpose to provide a sustainable and balanced development of spatial planning throughout the entire territory of Kosovo as a common national value, through good governance, rational use of space, environmental and cultural heritage protection. In addition, the purpose of this Law is to provide sustainable governance, efficient use of public funds, preconditions for balanced economic development, sustainable space regulation,

ensuring equal treatment, provision of free movement, and adequate access to public services for citizens.

This Law determines the basic principles of spatial planning, methodology of spatial development and regulations, types, procedures, contents as well as the responsibilities of the administrative entities at central and local level for the drafting and implementation of spatial planning documents, administrative supervision for enforcement of this Law, and related activities undertaken in spatial planning and territorial regulation in the Republic of Kosovo.

In the Republic of Kosovo there are two levels of spatial planning:

- A) Planning on central level for the entire territory of Kosovo through spatial planning documents:
  - Spatial Plan of Kosovo
  - Zoning Map of Kosovo
  - Spatial Plans for Special Zones
  
- B) Planning on local level for the entire territory of municipalities through spatial planning documents:
  - Municipal Development Plan – multi-sectoral strategic plan, defining long-term targets for economic, social and spatial development
  - Municipal Zoning Map – multi-sectoral document of the local level in accordance with provisions of Article 16 of this Law
  - Detailed Regulatory Plans

Spatial planning determines principles and long-term objectives of spatial planning for the territory of Kosovo for a period at least ten years and is based on vision, strategic aims, and international principles of planning and sustainable development.

The Law on Spatial Planning and the Law on Nature Protection have to ensure conditions for development of spatial planning for protected areas. Nature protection shall particularly be implemented, amongst others, through: putting conditions and measures of nature protection in the spatial planning document and management plans of nature goods in activities of mining, agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, hydro-economy, and also other activities with impacts in the nature.

Spatial planning for special areas identified in the territory of Kosovo is approved for areas, which require a special protection regime, preservation, development and their use. Here are included: strict nature reserves, national parks, special protected zones, nature parks, nature monuments, protected landscapes and areas with special natural, cultural, historical, economical values.

Spatial planning for National Parks defines the strategy which objectives and targets have to be achieved regarding its protection and preservation of all environment elements (air, water and soil), and natural values as biodiversity, landscape and other values of nature and its sustainable use for scientific research, recreation and tourism.

However, there is a need to protect the nature, biodiversity, endangered species and their habitats, spatial plans are oriented to protect the environment within areas that need to be preserved, by

concentrating mainly in development activities in infrastructure, tourism, constructions and economic development.

As defined in the Law on Spatial Planning, the aim of the protected area is to restrict constructions or other activities that can damage the natural and cultural heritage features. Following activities are not allowed in protected areas:

- construction of highways and regional roads;
- construction of higher buildings and those that are not in harmony with the existing neighboring buildings;
- development of heavy industry activity;
- over ground installations of electrical supply, telecommunications, digital transmitters, etc.;
- construction activities that affect deforestation, disposal or environmental pollution; and
- urban and rural spatial planning from the local level.

Spatial plans on local level and other types of plans have to be harmonized with Spatial Plan for Kosovo on central level.

#### **Main identified problems:**

- Lack of spatial plans for the National Park 'Bjeshkët e Nemuna' and other large protected areas;
- Activities regarding the NATURA 2000 designation process are only at the very beginning;
- Nature protection is not yet included in all spatial planning documents.

#### **Priorities - Strategic Actions:**

- Develop and adopt spatial plans for the National Park 'Bjeshkët e Nemuna' and other large protected areas;
- Finalization of delineation of biogeographical areas in Kosovo in the frame of the NATURA 2000 mapping;
- Integration of nature protection conditions and requirements in all spatial planning policies (at vertical and horizontal level).

### **6.5.2 Environmental Impact Assessment**

The procedures for the assessment of environmental impacts are defined by the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA No. 03/L - 214). The aim of this Law is to prevent or mitigate adverse impacts of proposed public and private projects and thereby contribute to the safeguarding and improvement of the environment, the protection of human health, and the improvement of the quality of life.

This Law determines procedures for identification, assessment, reporting and administration of environmental impacts of certain proposed projects. It ensures that during the decision-making process by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning as a competent authority for issuing

the 'Environmental Consent'<sup>16</sup> all relevant information regarding the environment is provided and taken into account.

A lot of activities are done without an 'Environment Consent' or another valid permit and therefore, having serious negative impacts on the environment, such as the damaging of river beds, destroyed landscapes and biodiversity, degrading forest, grassland and wetland ecosystems.

#### **Main identified problems:**

- Many companies implement their business activities without an environment permit;
- Closed mines are abandoned without re-cultivation.

#### **Priorities – Strategic actions:**

- Law enforcement and cooperation between governmental levels;
- Continued implementation of EIA and SEA procedures;
- Capacity building to carry out 'Appropriate Assessments' according to Habitats Directive Art. 6 (3) and (4).

## **6.6 Legal and Institutional Framework**

### **6.6.1 The legal frame**

Protection and conservation of all natural values and biodiversity is the responsibility of everybody according to the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo (Article 52) and the legal framework for protection of biological and landscape diversity is regulated by the Law on Nature Protection Nr. 03/L-233 and related Administrative Instructions. This Law lays down a system for the general protection and conservation of nature and its values; nature in the meaning of this Law represents all biological and landscapes diversity.

This Law regulates nature protection, its sustainable use and particularly:

- protection, conservation, rejuvenation and sustainable use of natural resources, in condition of natural balance;
- rejuvenation in harmed areas or their parts and compensation for inflicted damages;
- establishment of protected areas network, planning system, management, stocktaking, monitoring, information and funding for the purpose of protection of nature;
- preventing the over use of endangered types of flora and fauna, especially those of particular importance, rare and endangered, and their habitats;
- ensuring the right of the public for information on the nature state and participation in decision making for nature protection;
- ensuring the exercise of the right of citizens for healthy environment, relaxation and recreation in nature;
- prevention of harmful activities in the nature, as a consequence of economical activities by legal or physical persons;

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<sup>16</sup> According to international law 'development consent' meaning 'the decision of the competent authority or other authorities which entitle the developer to proceed with the project'.

- to maintain or restore, at favorable conservation status, natural habitats and species of interest for Kosovo according to EU standards;
- conservation of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state (birds, their eggs, nests and habitats).

Implementation of the Law on Nature Protection is the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and applies for all legal, physical persons and institutions which are holders of rights and obligations arising from the national legislation and from international acts for the protection of nature and its biodiversity.

The Law on Nature Protection is continually harmonized with relevant international treaties for nature and the *environmental acquis*, especially with Habitats Directive 92/43 EEC, Birds Directive 79/409 EEC (amended 2009/147/EC) and Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Kosovo is not yet a signatory of Conventions and Treaties dealing with nature protection, except the 'Treaty for establishing of Energy Community' signed in 2005, where Kosovo is obliged to undertake specially actions regarding the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 2 of the Birds Directive. Initial steps have been undertaken to identify potential areas for the ecological network NATURA 2000 in Kosovo.

In general, the national legislative framework offers a sustainable base for the protection and conservation of nature and biodiversity in Kosovo, but this legislation has to be implemented and enforced in an effective manner. The majority of existing laws is in harmony with the Law on Nature Protection; the harmonization of legislation as regards other sectors, such as forestry, agriculture, hunting, veterinary, waters, environment protection, etc., is in progress, taking principles of the Biodiversity Convention and requirements of EU *environmental acquis* into account.

Interest in the natural heritage and nature protection started already in 1953, when the first protected areas were declared. For example, the first botanic Strict Nature Reserve, where a special plant Bozhur (*Paeonia decora Anders*) occurs; than in 1955, the Strict Nature Reserve for the protection of Wild goats (*Rupicapra rupicapra L.*), Strict Nature Reserve for the lynx (*Lynx lynx L.*), etc. These areas were announced based on legislation of that time. Nowadays there are 19 Strict Nature Reserves.

#### 6.6.1.1 Laws regulating nature protection and environment

No.	Law	No. of Law	Date of Approva	Act and Promulgation Date
1.	Law on Nature Protection	03/L-233	30.09.2010	DL-054-2010 18.10.2010 OGRK no. 85; 09.11.2010
2.	Law on National Park 'Bjeshkë e Nemuna'	04/L-086	13.12.2012	DL - 60- 2012 26.12.2012; OGRK no.2/21 .01.2013
2.	Law on National Park 'Sharri'	04/L-087	13.12.2012	DL- 59-2012 26.12.2012; OGRK no.2/21.01. 2013
3.	Law on Environment Protection	03/L -025	26.02.2009	DL - 007/2009 19.03.2009 OG no.50; 06.04.2009
4.	Law on Air Protection from Pollution	Nr. 03/L-160	25 02. 2010	DL-012-2010, 12.03.2010 OG no.67; 29.03.2010
5.	Law on Waters of Kosovo	04/L-147	19.03.2013	DL - 11-2013 05.04.2013; OGRK no. 29.04.2013
6.	Law on Spatial Planning	04/L-174	31.07.2013	DL- 45-2013 19.08.2013; OGRK no. 30/ 23; 23.08.2013
7.	Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment	03/L-230	30.09.2010	DL-050 -2010, 18.10.2010 OGRK no.83 29.10.2010
8.	Law on Environment Impact Assessment	03/L-214	23.09.2010	DL-048 -2010, 14.10.2010 OGRK no.83, 29.10.2010

9.	Law on Waste	04/L -060	24.05.2012	DL -027-2012; 29.06.2012, OGRK no. 17/2012
10.	Law on Hydro-meteorological Activities	02/L - 79	15.06.2006	2007/2, 09.01.2007 OGRK no. 25, 01.06.2008
11.	Law on Noise Protection	02/L - 102	30.03.2007	2008/15 17.03.2008 OGRK no.40, 15.10.2008
12.	Law on Chemicals	04/L-197	27.02.2014	DL - 05-2014 14.03.2014; OGRK nr. 18/2014, 26.03.2014
13.	Law on Biocide Products	03/L-119	27.05.2009	DL-014-2009, 10.07.2009, OGRKno.55)10.07.2009

#### 6.6.1.2 Laws of other sectors with impacts on the conservation of biodiversity

Law	No. of Law	Date of Approval	Act and Promulgation Date
Law on Kosovo Forest (+ amendments)	2003/3 2004/29 03/L-153	13.02.2003 28.07.2004 29.03.2010	2003/6 20.03.2003 OGRK no.34, 01.08.2008 2004/40, 14.01.2004. OGRK no.34, 01.08.2008 29.03.2010, OGRK no. 67/2010
Law on Seeds	2003/5	20.03.2003	2003/10 15.04.2003
Law on mineral Fertilizers	2003/10	22.05.2003	2003/22 23.06.2003, (OGRK no.16), 01.09.2007
Law on Roads (+ amendments)	2003/11 03/L-120	29.05.2003 16.12.2008	2003/24 27.06.2003, OGRK no.16, 01.09.2007 2008/075, 30.12.2008, OGRK no.46, 15.01.2009
Law on Energy	03/L-184	07.10.2010	DL-058-2010,25.10.2010
Law on seedling Material	2004/13	29.04.2004	2004/16, 28.05.2004, OGRK no.22, 01.03.2008
Law on Veterinary	2004/21	16.06.2004	2004/28 30.07.2004
Law on Livestock	04/L-191	06.06.2013	DL-30-2013,28.06.2013
Law on Irrigation of Agricultural Land	2005/02/L - 9	23.03.2005	2005/49 25.11.2005, OGRK no.11, 0104.2007
Law on Animal Care	02/L - 10	23.03.2005	2005/24, 09.05.2005 OGRK no.5, 01.10.2006
Law on Hunting	02/L - 53	16.12.2005	2006/41, 11.08.2006, OGRK no.8, 01.01.2008
Law on Protection from Fire	04/L -012	21.07.2011	DL-009-2011,03.08.2011 OGRK no.7/10.08.2011 no.23, 01.04.2008)
Law on Protection from Natural and Disaster	04/L-027	22.09.2011	DL-037-2011, FJFKF0007.1107.11.2011;OGRK 07.10.2011 OGRK no.22/11, 19.10.2011
Law on Fishery and Agriculture	02/L - 85	10.10.2006	2006/58, 20.12.2006, OGRK no.24, 01.05.2008
Law on Plants Protection	04/L-120	13.12.2012	DL-064-2012 28.12.2012,OGRK no.1/ 17.01.2013
Law on Plants Varieties	02/L - 98	26.01.2007	2008/24 16.05.2008, OGRK no.40, 15.10.2008
Law on Apiculture	02/L - 111	30.03.2007	2008/5 08.02.2008 OGRK no15, .08.2008
Law on Organic Agriculture	04/L-085	13.09.2012	13.09.2012
Law on Products for Plants Protection	03/L - 042	07.11.2008	2008/061 27.11.2008 OGRK no.44 22.12.2008
Criminal Code of Kosovo	04/L-082	20.04.2012	OGRK no.19/2012; 3.07.2012
Criminal Procedure Code	04-/L-123	13.12.2012	OGRK no: 37/12; 28.12.2012

Criminal activities dealing with biodiversity are sanctioned through the Criminal Code of Kosovo (chapter XXVIII: criminal activities against environment, animals, plants and cultural objects – Article 347 to Article 364).

The Administrative Instruction No. 02/2012 on the procedures, criteria and methodology for the preparation and approval of Strategy documents and plans for their implementation has also to be mentioned.

### 6.6.1.3 *Agreements and Treaties*

Global and European treaties as well as EU Directives and Regulations for the conservation of nature are described in detail in chapter 2.2. In addition, Kosovo has signed the following regional and national agreements:

- Resolution for sustainable development of the Dinaric Arc region signed in Brdo, Slovenia on 09.03.2011;
- Agreement for the development of ecotourism in the trans-boundary protected area Sharri-Korab, Tetovë, 11/07/2013;
- Joint Agreement (Big Win 2) between countries of the Dinaric region for better preservation of nature within the Dinaric Arc region, Budva, Montenegro 10/02/2013;
- Memorandum of Understanding between KEPA / KINP and Research Centre of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Slovenia – Karst Research Institute;
- European Partnership Action Plan for the cooperation with the European Council, also an Action plan is approved for European Partnership 2009 – 2011;
- Memorandum of Cooperation between MESP and Civil Society Environmental Organizations in Kosovo, 05. 06. 2008;
- Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in field of environment protection and sustainable development with Republic of Albania, Prishtinë 04. 07. 2008;
- Treaty for Establishing of the Energy Community, 25.10. 2005.

#### **Main identified problems:**

- Implementation and enforcement of legislation is very poor, creating pressure on the environment and therefore, leading to biodiversity loss and unpredictable impacts on human well being;
- In many cases, there is lack of harmonization of laws between the sectors;
- Convention and Protocols are not signed (due to the countries' status);
- Requirements specified in EU Nature Directives and Regulations are not yet implemented.

#### **Priorities – Strategic Actions:**

- Improving the implementation and enforcement of existing laws;
- Completion of national legislation and harmonization with sectoral laws in order to ensure an effective implementation of relevant EU legislation;
- Be prepared for the ratification of relevant international conventions in field of biodiversity and nature protection;
- Promotion of legislation to municipalities, operators and other stakeholders.

### 6.6.2 **Institutional Framework**

In Kosovo, the highest decision-making body is the '**Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo**', which approves laws and strategies; the Assembly established the '**Environmental Protection Board**' and the '**Functional Committee of the Assembly on Agriculture, Forestry, Rural Development, Environment and Spatial Planning**', comprising 11 members from different political parties.

Responsible bodies for the administration and management of nature protection are the following:

**Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP)** – as the competent authority for nature protection – coordinates activities in the field of environmental protection in order to promote the coherent development of policies for environmental protection, develops norms and standards and issues guidelines in the field of environmental protection with special regard on international standards, monitors the implementation of such standards, as appropriate, conducting inspections and other services, participates in the development and implementation of public information campaigns and other promotional schemes to increase public awareness in compliance with environmental protection standards. The Nature Protection Division operates under the Environmental Protection Department and performs administrative and professional work related to the conservation of biodiversity, protection of natural heritage values, and protection of soil from pollution and sustainable use of natural resources in the Republic of Kosovo.

**Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency (KEPA)** has been established by the Law on Environmental Protection, in 2003/9, article 39, item 1 *'...as an institution within the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning to perform professional, administrative, research, supporting tasks in the field of environmental protection, nature protected areas and biological diversity.'* The Agency is established based on the Administrative Instruction No. 25, Protocol No. 22/03. The Agency's main tasks include integrated environmental monitoring, setting up and maintaining an effective environmental information system, and continuous reporting on the state of the environment. KEPA aims to monitor the quality of air, water, soil and biodiversity; it promotes the use of renewable energy resources and a sustainable use of natural resources. There are three institutes and three directorates under the responsibility of KEPA:

**Kosovo Institute for Nature Protection (KINP)** carries out professional work on nature protection based on tasks and competencies in the Nature Protection Law. In the Kosovo Institute for Nature Protection are two officials for biodiversity and fauna and one for protected areas.

**Hydro-meteorological Institute** conducts, besides many other issues, research and data collection and analyzes in the relevant fields.

**Institute for Spatial Planning (ISP)** is – together with the Spatial Planning department of the MESP – the competent institution for drafting Spatial Plans for Protected Areas, according to the Law on Spatial Planning No. 04/L-174.

**Directorate of National Park 'Sharri'** is the competent body to govern directly the National Park 'Sharri' according to legal duties and responsibilities. The park is managed based on the Law on National Park Sharri, No. 04/L – 087 (13 December 2012). The Management of the park is regulated by the Spatial Plan and the Management Plan of the Park.

**Directorate of National Park 'Bjeshkët e Nemuna'** is the competent body to govern directly the National Park 'Bjeshkët e Nemuna' according to legal duties and responsibilities. The park is managed based on the Law on National Park 'Bjeshkët e Nemuna', No. 04/L – 086 (13 December 2012) – spatial plan and management plan for the park are still not available.

**Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD)** is responsible amongst others for drafting and developing forestry policies, laws and sub-legal acts that regulate the field of forestry, wild animals and ecotourism in the Republic of Kosovo. The Kosovo Forest Agency is responsible for regulating issues related to forests and forestlands, implementation of forestry legislation, issuing permits for using forestry wood and non-wood forest products in the Republic of Kosovo. The Kosovo Forestry Institute provides technical and scientific support for Forestry Department and Kosovo Forestry Agency.

**Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)** has competencies in creating systemic conditions for trade, industry and commerce and to develop employment policies. The Tourism Division within the Ministry of Trade and Industry commenced its work in identifying the tourism brand of Kosovo. As this is a new sector, it should be carefully planned and nature protection issues should be taken into account.

**Ministry of European Integration (MEI)** – the competencies of the Ministry of European Integration are in coordination of Kosovo integration process in European Union and to check all legal and policy instruments to be in line with European legislation.

**Ministry of Infrastructure (MI)** – this Ministry has competencies to develop work policies, draft and implement legislation for the provision of services and facilities in the infrastructure sector.

**Ministry of Economic Development (MED)** – the Ministry of Economic Development has competencies to drafts policies and strategies for the comprehensive economic development in Kosovo.

**Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST)** – this Ministry has competencies to develop policies and implement legislation for the development of education, including higher education and science in Kosovo as well as to provide informal education and adult education at all levels, including remote areas, and promote life-long learning opportunities for all.

**Ministry of Finance (MF)** – the Ministry of Finance has competencies amongst others to coordinate the development and ensure the realization of a balanced annual budget for the public administration and has to approve / disapprove the budget outlined in the Strategy.

**Office of Strategic Planning (OSP)** – the Office of Strategic Planning responds directly to the Prime Minister and for administrative issues to the General Secretary of Office of Prime Minister (OPM) and performs the following duties and responsibilities:

- Support the Prime Minister to ensure that all Ministries act in compliance with government strategic policies;
- Provide advice to the Prime Minister and the Government to identify and review government strategic priorities;
- Provide advice to the Prime Minister on important policy issues to be approved by the Government and that are directly linked to government priorities;
- Ensure that strategic and planning documents developed by the Government are in compliance with general government priorities, including obligations deriving from the

European integration process and other international obligations as well as ensure consistency among them;

- Ensures that strategic and planning documents are drafted in accordance with the standards and procedures defined by the Government.

**Ministry of Culture Youth and Sport (MCYS)** with several departments. Within the Department of Heritage, established in 1952, the Nature Division of the Museum of Kosovo was destroyed in 2001. In the absence of the space, the museum-owned artefacts were transferred to the ethnographic museum and are now located in the basement of the Museum of Kosovo. This museum has had a total of 1.812 exhibits after the last war in Kosovo. Exhibits left in the basement are totally inadequate because of lack of adequate space. Humidity and not spraying are main two factors that mostly harm these exhibits. Museum collections presented in this section, represent a very valuable material because they documenting the diversity of life forms from botany and zoology in ecological and biogeographically aspects of these spaces. Many of the collections of birds and other animals owned by the museum are nowadays in danger of extinction, and are very rare not only for the Balkans but also for Europe.

On local level, **municipalities** are obliged to take care of the conservation of biological and landscape diversity in their territory, in accordance with the Law on Nature Protection, the Strategy and Action Plan and spatial planning documents. The municipalities are also obliged to issue programs for nature protection within their territory.

As Scientific Institutions in Kosovo the **Science Academy and University of Prishtina** have to be mentioned, both dealing with scientific exploration and research in the field of nature and biodiversity. Gene Banks shall preserve biological material, controlled and bred populations or parts of animals, fungi or plants, especially seeds, spores, gametes and other biological material manipulated for the purposes of conservation of species or their genetic resources. The operational terms for gene banks shall be set out by the head of the central state administration body competent for science, subject to approval of the respective Ministries. Such institution operates under the University of Prishtina, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary.

**Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs)** are part of civil society and contain important elements of cooperation for environment issues, often offering innovative approaches to solve different environment problems. Participation of NGOs during the drafting process of strategic documents is increased. Despite the considerable number of environmental NGOs (approximately 70), almost none of them has specialized programmes for nature and biodiversity conservation. To mention some of them: 'Finch' Prizren, 'ERA' Pejë, 'ECO 99' Prizren, and 'Kosovo ecologist' Prishtina. Financial support of their activities is partly coming from the Regional Environment Centre (REC) – from its field office located in Prishtina.

#### **Main identified problems:**

- Institutional competencies are not always clarified in horizontal and vertical level;
- Lack of human capacity in relevant institutions at all levels;
- Weak management of protected areas;
- Lack of real cooperation with and between universities, NGOs, and other relevant sectors.

#### **Priorities – Strategic Actions:**

- Clarify institutional competences and improve cooperation between relevant institutions;
- Capacity building activities and qualified trainings for all relevant public authorities, specifically for inspection services and professional supervision, to effectively implement and enforce the law;
- Improve the quality of PAs management;
- Stimulate the cooperation with universities and NGO's, e.g. mapping of habitat and species, inventories, Red List, etc.

## 7 ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

### 7.1 Strategic objectives and related measures

The NBSAP identifies main problems and lists related solutions (strategic actions) providing the direction of the Strategic Objectives, which need to be addressed in the Action Plan. The Strategic Objectives are described in a very general way and their achievements require longer time periods for implementation. Under each Strategic Objective, several Measures are listed (several of them also requiring longer time periods for implementation) and the activities or projects outlined in section 7.2 are referring to these Measures.

<b>Strategic Objective (SO) and Measures (M)</b>
<p><b>SO 1. By 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning has taken steps to develop and implement the legal and institutional framework in line with EU standards.</b></p>
<p>M. 1. Full harmonization and strengthening of the legislation for nature protection in line with EU Acquis, and foster the progress towards the signature of main conventions; M. 2. Increase the capacity of competent bodies for implementation and enforcement of measures and actions related biodiversity conservation.</p>
<p><b>SO 2. By 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning initiates and supports projects contributing to the protection and maintenance of plant and animal species, natural habitats and representative landscape.</b></p>
<p>M. 1. Increase the surface of protected areas in the territory of Republic of Kosovo, ensuring representative coverage of all habitats and species and their effective management; M. 2. Research and inventory of species and natural habitats; M. 3. Ex - situ protection of plant and animal genetic resources; M. 4. Preparatory work for establishing the ecological network 'NATURA 2000'.</p>
<p><b>SO 3. By 2020, nature protection is incorporated into other sectors policies through the MESP' cooperation with relevant stakeholders ensuring integrated sectoral policies, effective management and sustainable use of biodiversity.</b></p>
<p>M.1. Promotion of economic values of biodiversity and it's conservation and integrated in all sectoral policies of agriculture and forestry; M. 2. Issue of Spatial and Management plans for all protected areas; M. 3. Increasing awareness and cooperation among all sectors for biodiversity.</p>
<p><b>SO 4. By 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning supports and works closely with municipalities, NGOs and the university to implement projects in the education and communication sectors and has taken steps promoting biodiversity and nature protection in society through awareness raising activities.</b></p>
<p>M. 1. Development and implementation of projects for increasing awareness regarding the importance of nature, biodiversity, landscapes and their economic and financial values; M. 2. Strengthening of taxonomic sciences and implementing of programmes at the university for mapping, managing and protecting biodiversity.</p>

## 7.2 Actions – projects for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy in the Republic of Kosovo 2016 – 2020

The Law on Nature Protection clearly determines the format of the Action Plan, necessary for practical purposes of planning and financing. The Action Plan identifies specific activities, responsible and supportive institutions, secured or possible sources of financing and a timeframe.

Not every action outlined in the Action Plan will be implemented and finalized by 2020, it is clear that a full list of actions will request a longer time period, maybe 10 or more years, for implementation. During the process for updating the Action Plan, efforts were made to prioritize action, considering the emergency, threatening, the priorities listed in the NPISAA (March 2016) and possible financing support.

The Action Plan has to follow several criteria:

- All planned activities should have objectives related to biodiversity conservation and should be in line with the global Biodiversity Strategy 2011 – 2020 and related Aichi Targets as well as with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2011 - 2020;
- Activities have to be identified based on the analysis of threats for biodiversity;
- Projects should support institutions to achieve the objectives;
- The conservation of biodiversity and activities leading to this goal have to be monitored;
- The Action Plan should not be a ‘wish-list’, but should provide a realistic frame for achieving the biodiversity goals;
- Programmes and projects that are not linked with biodiversity in direct or indirect manner should be excluded from the priorities;
- The approach to implement the NBSAP only with project funds coming from international sources is not sustainable – there is a clear need for additional state budget covering costs others than for salaries and services.

Adequate funding is considered crucial to achieve the Strategic Objectives. Besides the regular state budget, there is the need for funding coming from international sources. Access to funding mechanisms is not always easy, specifically as regards projects submitted under EU programmes. Therefore, capacity to access international funding should be built up in the MESP. Furthermore, in times of limited resources, specifically as regards the conservation of biodiversity and nature protection, there is the need for generating finances through other innovative approaches, e.g. sponsorships from possible commercial actors, for example, telecommunication companies or cooperation with banks. Due to the huge scope of needed interventions to halt the loss of biodiversity and the limited budget available, a prioritization is needed. Criteria for prioritization of actions are:

- Actions, for which funding is secured or has a high potential to be financed;
- Actions to be carried out as a national obligation – probably small projects or initiatives due to the limited state budget;
- Emergency actions due to natural phenomena and related threats.

Knowing the fact that the main threats for biodiversity are human activities, this Strategy emphasizes the importance of participation of people and joint management of all aspects of biodiversity conservation. Therefore, the effective cooperation between different sectors and partners is vital and the clarification of the roles and responsibilities of all involved parties is necessary. Factors, positively contributing to a successful implementation, are the mobilization of all sector capacities in

governmental and non-governmental levels, including science and business as well as information sharing and transparency. The general coordination will lie with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Action Plan will provide guidance for the declaration of new protected areas and will increase the effectiveness of the management inside as well as outside of protected areas.

## ACTION PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2016 - 2020

Activity	indicators of success	Responsible Institution	Supporting institutions	Timeline for implementation	The financial cost and source of funding	Comments
<b>Strategic Objective: 1. By 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning has taken steps to develop and implement the legal and institutional framework in line with EU standards</b>						
<b>Measure/sub Strategic objective: 1.1 Full harmonization and strengthening of the legislation for nature protection in line with EU Acquis, and foster the progress towards the signature of main conventions</b>						
1.1.1. Drafting and adoption of sub-legal acts that derive from the Law on Nature Protection	Sub legal acts approved	MESP	Government	Q1 2017 - Q4 2018	T. 50,000 EUR BK. 50,000	T= Total BK.= Budget of Kosovo
1.1.2. Continue the promotion of legislation for nature protection to municipalities	Legislation has been presented to the community	MESP	Municipalities	Q1 2017 – Q4 2018	T. 40,000 EUR BK. 10,000 SIDA 30,000	SIDA = Project for Environment
1.1.3. Adoption of programs for nature protection for each municipality	Adopted programs	Municipalities	MESP	Q1 – Q4 2020	T. 180,000 EUR BK. 180,000	
1.1.4. Lobby for the ratification of relevant conventions and treaties	Relevant Conventions are signed	MFA	MESP, Kosovo Parliament	Q1 2017 – Q4 2020	T. 50,000 EUR BK. 50,000	
1.1.5. Harmonization and strengthening of legislation and clarification of competencies for the management of N. Parks	Clear competencies	MESP	MAFRD, Government	Q1 – Q4 2017	T. 10,000 EUR BK. 10,000	

**Measure/sub Strategic objective: 1.2. Increase the capacity of competent bodies for implementation and enforcement of measures and actions related biodiversity conservation**

1.2.1. Strengthening competent institutions and bodies for the protection and conservation of biodiversity	Competent Institutions and bodies	MESP	Donors	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2018	T. 100,000 EUR BK. 50,000 SIDA 50,000	
1.2.2. Building capacity for accessing international funding	Trained staff for access in international funds	MESP	IKAP, Donors	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2018	T. 10,000 EUR BK. 10,000	

**Strategic Objective: 2. By 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning initiates and supports projects contributing to the protection and maintenance of plant and animal species, natural habitats and representative landscape**

**Measure/sub Strategic objective: 2.1. Increase the surface of protected areas in the territory of Republic of Kosovo, ensuring representative coverage of all habitats and species and their effective management;**

2.1.1. Declaration of “Pashtrik” as Transboundary Protected Area (TPA)	TPA declared	MESP	Government	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2018	T. 50,000 EUR BK. 20,000 GIZ 30,000	GIZ = Open fund for Biodiversity
2.1.2. Identification and declaration of Important Bird Areas (IBAs)	Area, identified and declared	MESP	Government	Q1 – 2019 Q4 - 2020	T. 50,000 EUR BK. 50,000	

**Measure/sub Strategic objective: 2.2. Research and inventory of species and natural habitats**

2.2.1. Inventories and mapping of rare species of flora and fauna in ‘Bjeshkët e Nemuna’	Inventory completed	MESP	Donors	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2018	T. 60,000 EUR SIDA 60,000	
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2.2.2. Updating the inventory of birds in 'Bjeshkët e Nemuna'	Updating of inventory is finished	MESP	Donors, NGO	Q3 – 2017 Q3 - 2018	T. 50,000 EUR SIDA 50,000	
2.2.3. Updating the inventories and mapping of rare species of flora and fauna in 'Sharri'	Inventory completed	MESP	Donors	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2018	T. 60,000 EUR SIDA 60,000	
2.2.4. Updating the inventory of birds in "Sharri"	Updating of inventory is finished	MESP	Donors, NGO	Q1 – 2017 Q2 - 2018	T. 50,000 EUR SIDA 50,000	
2.2.5. Inventory of invasive plant species	Inventory of invasive species completed	MESP	MAFRD	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2018	T. 10,000 EUR BK. 10,000	
2.2.6. Elaboration and publication of Red List of Fauna	Red book of Fauna published	MESP	Donors	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2018	T. 60,000 EUR SIDA 60,000	
2.2.7. Supply with equipment for research and monitoring of natural resources	Equipment provided	MESP		Q3 - 2017	T. 20,000 EUR BK. 20,000	
<b>Measure/sub Strategic objective: 2.3. Ex – situ protection of plant and animal genetic resources</b>						
2.3.1. Strengthening the Genetic Resource Bank for plants and Foundation of a Genetic Resource Bank for animals	Bank of Genetic Resource for plants strengthened and BGR for animals established	MEST, UP	MESP	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2020	T. 40,000 EUR BK. 40,000	
<b>Measure/sub Strategic objective: 2.4. Preparatory work for establishing the ecological network 'NATURA 2000'</b>						

2.4.1. Elaborate the Interpretation Manual for habitat types in Kosovo according to the Habitats Directive	Manual prepared	MESP	Donors, UP	Q1 – 2019 Q4 - 2020	T. 20,000 EUR IPA 20,000	IPA = IPA Project
2.4.2. Development of Centralized Informative System (CIS) for biodiversity	CIS funded	MESP	Donors	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2018	T. 40,000 EUR BK. 20,000 GIZ 20,000	
2.4.3. Building of human and technical capacities for habitat mapping and species inventories (trainings)	Improved human and technical capacities	MESP	Donors	Q1 – 2019 Q4 - 2020	T.270,000 EUR BK. 30,000 IPA 240,000	
2.4.4. Data collection for habitat types and species (including distribution, representativeness, etc.) including field work	Data for habitat types and species are ensured	MESP	Donors	Q1 – 2019 Q4 - 2020	T.180,000 EUR BK. 20,000 IPA 160,000	
2.4.5. Production of distribution maps for all habitat types and species present in Kosovo based on existing data	Maps produced	MESP	Donors	Q1 – 2019 Q4 - 2020	T. 140,000 EUR BK. 20,000 IPA 120,000	

**Strategic Objective: 3. By 2020, nature protection is incorporated into other sectors policies through the MESP' cooperation with relevant stakeholders ensuring integrated sectoral policies, effective management and sustainable use of biodiversity**

**Measure/sub Strategic objective: 3.1. Promotion of economic values of biodiversity and it's conservation and integrated in all sectoral policies of agriculture and forestry**

3.1.1. Continue the effective implementation of SEA and EIA procedures	Procedures of SEA and EIA are implemented	MESP	Businesses	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2020	NO additional budget needed	
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3.1.2. Capacity building for the implementation of 'Appropriate Assessments' (AA) according to the Habitats Directive	Improved human and technical capacities	MESP	Donors	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2018	T. 40,000 EUR SIDA 20,000 GIZ 20,000	
3.1.3. Continue the introduction of nature protection conditions into other sectors during the preparation of legislations, strategies, programmes and plans of other relevant sectors	Condition for nature protection are introduced to the relevant sectors	MESP	MED, MTI, MI, MAFRD	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2020	NO additional budget needed	
<b>Measure/sub Strategic objective: 3.2. Issue of Spatial and Management plans for all protected areas</b>						
3.2.1. Preparation and adoption of spatial and management plans for 'Bjeshkët e Nemuna'	Spatial and Management Plan approved	MESP	Donors, Parliament of Kosovo	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2018	T. 180,000 EUR BK. 60,000 SIDA 80,000 GIZ 40,000	
3.2.2. Preparation and adoption of management plans for other large protected areas (over 500 ha)	Management plans for PA over 500 ha approved	MESP	MAFRD, Donors	Q1 – 2019 Q4 - 2020	T. 80,000 EUR BK. 20,000 IPA 60,000	
3.2.3. Preparation of species protection management plans for large mammals	Management plans for large mammals approved	MESP	Donors NGO	Q1 – 2019 Q4 - 2020	T. 50,000 EUR BK. 20,000 IPA 30,000	

3.2.4. Support the development and implementation of the Drini River Basin Management Plan	Management plan approved	MESP	Donors	Q1 – 2019 Q4 - 2020	T. 770,000 EUR BK. 70,000 SIDA 700,000	
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**Measure/sub Strategic objective: 3.3. Increasing awareness and cooperation among all sectors for biodiversity**

3.3.1. Development of incentive measures to promote biodiversity conservation to other sectors and continue with measures applied in the forestry and agricultural sector	Incentive measures implemented	MESP	MED, MTI, MI, MAFRD	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2020	T. 50,000 EUR BK. 50,000	
3.3.2. Continue screening policy and legislation of other relevant sectors regarding objectives, practices and regulations, potentially negatively affecting biodiversity	Policy and legislation of other sectors is in line with aims of biodiversity conservation	MESP	MED, MTI, MI, MAFRD	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2020	T. 50,000 EUR BK. 50,000	

**Strategic Objective: 4. By 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning supports and works closely with municipalities, NGOs and the university to implement projects in the education and communication sectors and has taken steps promoting biodiversity and nature protection in society through awareness raising activities**

**Measure/sub Strategic objective: 4.1. Development and implementation of projects for increasing awareness regarding the importance of nature, biodiversity, landscapes and their economic and financial values**

4.1.1. Implementation of additional training programmes for teachers regarding nature protection and implementation of curricula at all levels	Additional training programmes implemented	MESP	MEST, MDE	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2020	T. 50,000 EUR BK. 50,000	
4.1.2. Continuation of REC's Project Green Pack Junior – training of teachers from 1- 5 grade	Implemented Project	MESP	MEST, MDE, REC	Q1 – 2017 Q4 – 2018	T. 40,000 EUR BK. 40,000	
4.1.3. Raising awareness of local people living in or near protected areas	Awareness of local people is increasing	MESP	Municipalities, Donors	Q1 – 2017 Q4 – 2018	T. 50,000 EUR BK. 30,000 SIDA 20,00	
4.1.4. Strengthen the cooperation between the MESP and NGOs for non-formal education activities	Strengthen the cooperation with NGO	MESP	Donors, NGO	Q1 – 2017 Q4 – 2018	T. 40,000 EUR BK. 20,000 SIDA 20,000	
4.1.5. Develop and implement the Project of Eco Path in "Germia" Regional Park – and management plan with a focus on education	Implemented Project	Municipality of Prishtina	MESP, UP	Q1 – 2018 Q4 – 2019	T. 100,000 EUR BK. 100,000	
4.1.6. Develop and Implement the Project of Botanical Garden	Implemented Project	MESP	UP, MEST, Donors	Q1 – 2017 Q4 – 2018	T. 100,000 EUR BK. 100,000	

4.1.7. Develop and implement a national awareness raising campaign	Awareness campaigns implemented	MESP	MAFRD, MED, MTI, MI, Media	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2020	T. 50,000 EUR BK. 50,000	
<b>Measure/sub Strategic objective: 4.2. Strengthening of taxonomic sciences and implementing of programmes at the university for mapping, managing and protecting biodiversity</b>						
4.2.1 Increasing university staff for taxonomy, mapping, management and protection of biodiversity	Increasing number for staff for taxonomy is achieved	MEST	UP	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2020	T. 50,000 EUR BK. 50,000	
4.2.2. Support of scientific investigation and projects in the field of biodiversity and nature protection	Scientific research for biodiversity is implemented	MEST	UP, MESP	Q1 – 2017 Q4 - 2020	T. 50,000 EUR BK. 50,000	

## 8 MONITORING AND REPORTING

The responsible institution for implementation and monitoring of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016 – 2020 is the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. According to the Law, the monitoring is divided in three phases:

- Ten year review of the Biodiversity Strategy (relevant in 2021);
- Five year review and update of the Action Plan (done in 2016);
- Annual review of project implementation.

The monitoring has to be simple but providing conditions to assess improvements through the use of selected indicators. During the process of updating the NBSAP, set of indicators has been developed and discussed, which will be part of the monitoring plan evaluating the success of this strategy.

While the NBSAP has to be approved by the Kosovo Assembly, responsibilities for monitoring the Action Plan have been given to the MESP. Basic annual information has to be provided to the relevant bodies/departments at the Assembly and the MESP, where decisions over actions and finances are taken. Responsibilities and reporting lines have to be clearly communicated to line ministries and other liaison agencies as regards the implementation of this monitoring plan and its use.

### Indicators for achieving Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective	Indicators
<b>SO 1</b> By 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning has taken steps to develop and implement the legal and institutional framework in line with EU standards.	Level of harmonization of national and sectoral legislation with EU <i>environmental acquis</i> increased
	Clear jurisdiction as regards the management of the National Parks
	10 (ten) capacity building activities for relevant authorities to effectively implement actions/measures and enforcement of the law
<b>SO 2</b> By 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning initiates and supports projects contributing to the protection and maintenance of plant and animal species, natural habitats and representative landscape.	Central database for biodiversity-related data
	Biodiversity experts from different fields are trained in habitat mapping and species inventories
	Relevant stakeholders are aware of the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives
	Territorial percentage of proposed protected areas increased covering at least 10 % of each habitat type found in Kosovo (as part of the NATURA 2000 designation process)

	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the MESP and the University of Prishtina supporting ex-situ conservation of biodiversity
<b>SO 3</b>	The quality of existing protected areas' management increased
By 2020, nature protection is incorporated into other sectors policies through the Ministries' cooperation with relevant stakeholders ensuring integrated sectoral policies, effective management and sustainable use of biodiversity.	30 % of endangered species are under any form of protection contributing to the decrease of biodiversity loss
	The number of Environmental Impact Assessments has increased and relevant stakeholders are trained in applying the 'Appropriate Assessment'
<b>SO 4</b>	The MESP has 8 (eight) MoUs with selected stakeholders
By 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning supports and works closely with municipalities, NGOs and the university to implement projects in the education and communication sectors and has taken steps promoting biodiversity and nature protection in society through awareness raising activities.	National awareness raising campaign implemented
	Increased interest of the public in participation in biodiversity-related projects and the appreciation of biodiversity in society

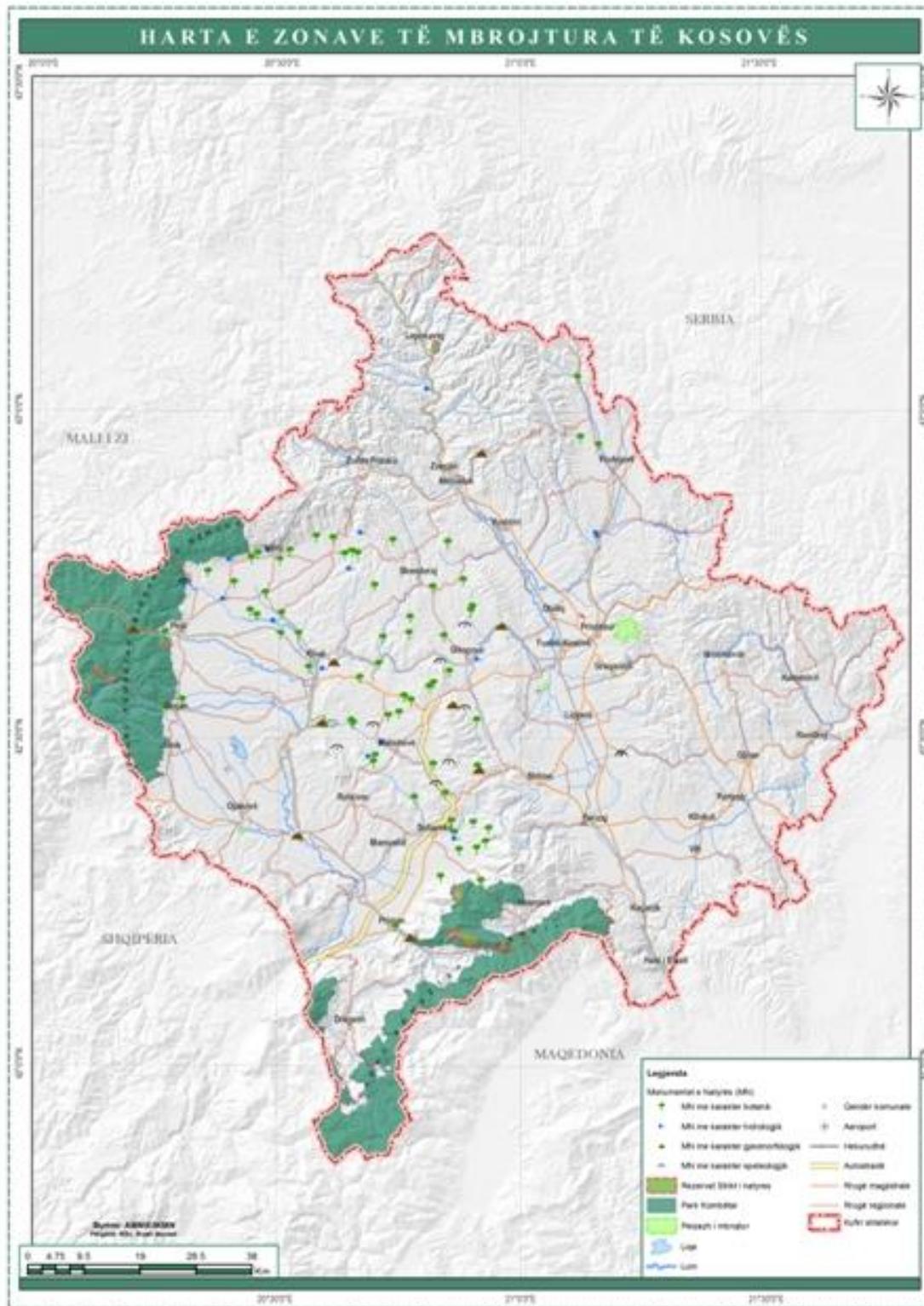
## 9 ANNEXES

**ANNEX I The Map of protected areas in Kosovo**

**ANNEX II List of protected areas (status 2014)**

**ANNEX III Decision of the General Secretary MESP - Members of the Working Group**

ANNEX I The Map of protected areas in Kosovo



Source: Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

## ANNEX II List of protected areas (status 2014)

Code	Name of protected area	Municipality	Area/ ha	IUCN Category	Year of protection	Short description of nature values
<b>NATURE RESERVES (847 ha)</b>						
RN_001	Gazimestani	Prishtinë	12	Ib	1953	Plant nature reserve of Scarlet paeony ( <i>Paeonia decora</i> Anders)
RN_002	Maja e Ropsit	Deçan	20	Ia	1955	Plant nature reserve of molika, firtree, pine, and beech
RN_003	Kozhnjeri	Deçan	150	Ia	1955	Animal nature reserve of Wild goat ( <i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i> L.)
RN_004	Rusenica	Suharekë	300	Ia	1955	R Animal nature reserve of Lynx ( <i>Lynx lynx</i> L.)
RN_005	Gubavci	Pejë	38	Ia	1959	Plant nature reserve of endemo-relikt <i>Forsythia europeae</i>
RN_006	Maja e Arnenit	Prizren	30	Ia	1960	Plant nature reserve of Bosnian Pine ( <i>Pinus heldreichii</i> )
RN_007	Oshlaku	Prizren	20	Ia	1960	Plant nature reserve of Bosnian Pine <i>Pinus heldreichii</i> ) and other endemic species
RN_008	Pisha e Madhe	Prizren	35	Ia	1960	Plant nature reserve of Bosnian Pine ( <i>Pinus heldreichii</i> ) and some species of birds
RN_009	Prilepi mountains	Deçan	1	Ia	1963	Plant nature reserve of Balkan Maple ( <i>Acer heldreichii</i> )
RN_010	Bifurcationi of Nerodime river	Ferizaj	13	Ib	1979	Special nature reserve. A unique phenomena in Europe. High educative, scientific and tourist values
RN_011	Kamilja	Leposaviq	228	Ib	1988	Special nature reserve Calcareous hill "Kamilja" with paleontological features
<b>NATIONAL PARK (115.957 ha)</b>						
PK_001	National Park "Sharri"	Prizren Suharekë Kaçanik Shtërpçë, Dragash	53.469	II	(1986), 2012	Characterized with many relict and endemic species of flora and fauna and with high geomorphological heritage, hidrological, speleological, cultural, education and tourist values
PK_002	National Park "Bjeshkët Nemuna"	Pejë, Deçan, Istog, Junik, Gjakovë	62.488	II	2012	Characterized with many relict and endemic species of flora and fauna and with high geomorphological heritage, hidrological, speleological, cultural, educativ and tourist values.
<b>NATURE MONUMENTS (5972 ha )</b>						
MN_001	Mani Sham ( <i>Morus</i> sp.)	Pejë	0.03	III	1957	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_002	Oriental Plane ( <i>Platanus orientalis</i> ) in Marash	Prizren	0.05	III	1959	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_003	Aspen ( <i>Populus tremula</i> ) në Bajçinë	Podujevë	0.05	III	1959	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_004	Lime ( <i>Tilia argentea</i> ) in Isniq	Deçan	0.02	III	1968	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_005	Lime's trees ( <i>Tilia argentea</i> ) in Isniq	Deçan	0.05	III	1968	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_006	Cave in Gadime	Lypjan	39	III	1969	Nature geo-monument with geological and speleological features
MN_007	Minerals- crystals	Mitrovicë	0.05	III	1970	Nature Monument with geological and geomorphological features

MN_008	River Mirusha water flow	Suharekë Klinë Malishevë	12	III	1983	Nature monument with geological and geomorphologic values
MN_009	Canion of River Lumbardhi	Prizren	200	III	1976	Nature monument with hydrological values
MN_010	Spring of Drini i Bardhë with Radaci Cave	Pejë	90	III	1983	Nature monument with geomorphologic speleological, botanic and hydrological values
MN_011	Rugova Gorge	Pejë	4301	III	1985	Nature monument with geomorphologic speleological, tourist and hydrological values
MN_012	Spring of Mineral water in Dersnik	Klinë	0.07	III	1985	Nature monument with geomorphologic speleological, landscape, tourist and hydrological values
MN_013	Gorge of Klina river	Klinë	205	III	1985	Nature monument with hydrological values
MN_014	Oak trees in Lozicë	Malishevë	0.05	III	1985	Nature monument with geo-morphologic speleological, botanic and hydrological values
MN_015	Oak trees in Zllakuqan	Klinë	0.05	III	1985	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_016	Canyon of Drini i Bardhë te Ura e Fshejtë	Gjakovë Rahovec	198	III	1986	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_017	Cave in Baica	Drenas	0.11	III	1987	Nature monument with geomorphologic hydrological and tourist
MN_018	Cave in Gllanasella	Drenas	0.5	III	1987	Nature monument with geomorphologic and speleological values
MN_019	Thermomineral spring in Vuqë	Leposaviq	16.6	III	1988	Nature monument with geomorphologic and speleological values
MN_020	Mineral water spring in Sallabajë	Podujevë	0.31	III	1988	Nature monument with hydrological values
MN_021	Water spring in Shajkovcë	Podujevë	1.41	III	1988	Nature monument with hydrological values
MN_022	Oak tree in Pollate	Podujevë	0.44	III	1988	Nature monument with hydrological values
MN_023	Oak trees in Dobratin	Podujevë	0.07	III	1988	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_024	Common oak trees in Nekoc	Drenas	0.05	III	2006	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_025	Complex of Common oak trees in Negroc	Drenas	0.05	III	2006	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_026	Hungarian oak trees in Negroc	Drenas	0.05	III	2006	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_027	Cave in Kishnareka	Drenas	2	III	2006	Nature geo-monument with speleological features
MN_028	Oak trees in Krajkovë	Drenas	0.05	III	2006	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_029	Gradina stone in Llapushnik	Drenas	2	III	2006	Nature geo-monument with speleological features
MN_030	Mineral water spring in Poklek	Drenas	0.05	III	2006	Nature monument with hydrologic values
MN_031	6 Oak trees in Likoshan	Drenas	0.05	III	2006	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_032	Oak trees in Terstenik	Drenas	0.05	III	2006	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_033	Oak tree (Quercus sp.) in Likoshan	Drenas	0.05	III	2006	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_034	Guri i Plakës in Dobroshevc	Drenas	0.05	III	2006	Nature monument with geomorphologic values
MN_035	Common oak trees (Quercus pubescens) in Aqarevë	Skenderaj	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values

MN_036	Complex of Common oak trees (Quercus sp) in Polac	Skenderaj	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with geomorphologic values
MN_037	Common oak trees (Quercus sp) in Likoc	Skenderaj	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_038	Thermomineral water spring in Bajë	Skenderaj	0.1	III	2007	Nature monument with hydrologic values
MN_039	Turkish oak tree (Quercus sp) in Prellovc	Skenderaj	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_040	Complex of Common oak trees (Quercus sp) in Rezallë	Skenderaj	0.02	III	2007	Nature monument with hydrological values
MN_041	Complex of Common oak trees (Quercus Pub.) in Klladernicë	Skenderaj	0.1	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_042	Oak trees (Quercus ceris) in Kotorr	Skenderaj	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_043	Oak trees (Quercus ceris) in Padalishtë	Skenderaj	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_044	Oak trees,(Quercus Pub.) in Çitak	Skenderaj	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_045	Oak trees (Quercus ceris) in Runik	Skenderaj	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_046	Salt water spring in Leqinë	Skenderaj	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with hydrologic values
MN_047	Oak trees (Quercus sp.) in Lubovec	Skenderaj	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_048	Turkish oak tree in Deiq	Klinë	0.03	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_049	Complex of Common oak trees (Quercus Pub.) in Gllarevë	Klinë	0.28	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_050	Oak trees in Nagllavk	Klinë	0.12	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_051	Mineral water spring in Rudice	Klinë	0.07	III	2007	Nature monument with hydrological values
MN_052	White oak tree (Quercus pubescens) in Ujëmirë	Klinë	0.2	III	2008	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_053	Oak trees in Breshan	Suharekë	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_054	Complex of Common oak trees in Savrovë	Suharekë	0.15	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_055	Pine trunk (Pinus sp.) in Delloc	Suharekë	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_056	Oak trees (Quercus sp.) in Grejkoc	Suharekë	0.15	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_057	Polpar trees (Populus sp.) in Reçan	Suharekë	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_058	Spring of mineral water in Reçan	Suharekë	0.1	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_059	Complex of Common oak trees (Quercus sp.) in Muhlan	Suharekë	0.15	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_060	Sorbus trunk (Sorbus domestica L.) in Budakovë	Suharekë	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with hydrological values
MN_061	Complex of Common oak trees in Papaz	Suharekë	0.15	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values

MN_062	Two oak trees ( <i>Quercus</i> sp.) in Blace	Suharekë	0.1	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_063	Oak tree ( <i>Quercus</i> sp.) Vraniq	Suharekë	0.05	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_064	Macedonian oak tree ( <i>Quercus trojana</i> ) Biraqë	Suharekë	0.1	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_065	Complex of oak trees ( <i>Quercus</i> sp.) in Luzhnicë	Suharekë	0.15	III	2007	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_066	Guri i xhamisë (eng. Mosque Rock) in Luzhnicë	Suharekë	0.15	III	2007	Nature monument with geomorphological values
MN_067	Black mulberry trees ( <i>Morus nigra</i> L.) Cerrcë	Istog	0.11	III	2008	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_068	Silver lime tree ( <i>Tilia tomentosa</i> Moench) Lubozhdë	Istog	0.1	III	2008	Nature monument with geomorphologic values
MN_069	Red lime tree ( <i>Tilia</i> sp.) Istog i Poshtëm	Istog	0.05	III	2008	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_070	White Oak tree ( <i>Quercus pubescens</i> Willd) Sine	Istog	0.17	III	2008	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_071	Silver lime tree ( <i>Tilia tomentosa</i> Moench.) Shushicë të Epërme	Istog	0.05	III	2008	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_072	Spring natural water in Istog	Istog	3.88	III	2008	Nature monument with hydrological values
MN_073	Sorbus tree ( <i>Sorbus domestica</i> L.) Uçë	Istog	0.07	III	2008	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_074	Silver lime tree ( <i>Tilia tomentosa</i> Moench) Kaligan	Istog	0.05	III	2008	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_075	Spring of termal water in Banjë	Istog	0.85	III	2008	Nature monument with hydrological values
MN_076	Red lime tree ( <i>tilia</i> sp.) në Lubovë	Istog	0.07	III	2008	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_077	Common oak tree ( <i>Quercus robur</i> L.) Zallq	Istog	0.11	III	2008	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_078	Common oak tree ( <i>Quercus robur</i> L.) në Trubuhovc	Istog	0.07	III	2008	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_079	Common oak tree ( <i>Quercus robur</i> ) Saradran	Istog	0.05	III	2008	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_080	Common oak tree ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )Gurrakoc	Istog	0.01	III	2008	Nature monument with botanic values
MN_081	Spring of natural water in Vrellë	Istog	0.26	III	2008	Nature monument with hydrological values
NN_082	Mirusha Waterfalls	Malishevë Klinë and Rahovec	598.4	III	2012	Nature monument with hydrological values, a rare nature phenomena with series of waterfalls, specific landscapes with scientific,culture and tourist values
NM_083	Turksih oak tree ( <i>Quercus ceris</i> L.) Lladrovç	Malishevë	0.08	III	2014	Nature monument with botanic values
NM_84	Cave in Temeqina	Malishevë	0.69	III	2014	Nature monument with geomorphologic and speleological values
NM_85	Oak tree( <i>Quercus ceris</i> L.) Carravranë	Malishevë	0.08	III	2014	Nature monument with botanic values
NM_86	White oak tree ( <i>Quercus pubescens</i> Willd) LLozicë	Malishevë	0.08	III	2014	Nature monument with botanic values

NM_87	White oak tree ( <i>Quercus pubescens</i> Willd) LLozicë	Malishevë	0.07	III	2014	Nature monument with botanic values
NM_88	Bozhuri Cave in Damanek	Malishevë	2 ha	III	2014	Nature monument with geomorphologic and speleological values
NM_89	Cave in Lladroviqi	Malishevë	2ha	III	2014	
NM_90	White oak tree ( <i>Quercus pubescens</i> Willd)	Malishevë	0.05	III	2014	Nature monument with botanic values
NM_91	Turkish oak tree ( <i>Quercus cerris</i> L.)	Malishevë	1.25	III	2014	Nature monument with botanic values
NM_92	Turkish oak tree ( <i>Quercus cerris</i> L.) Bubël	Malishevë	0.8	III	2014	Nature monument with botanic values
NM_93	Turkish Oak tree ( <i>Quercus cerris</i> L.) Bubël	Malishevë	0.8	III	2014	Nature monument with botanic values
NM_94	Turkish oak tree ( <i>Quercus cerris</i> ) Bellanicë	Malishevë	0.8	III	2014	Nature monument with botanic values
NM_95	Narrow-leafed ash tree ( <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> Vahl) Javiq	Malishevë	0.8	III	2014	Nature monument with botanic values
NM_96	Complex of oak trees in Vermicë	Malishevë	0.7	III	2014	Nature monument with botanic values
NM_97	Trees and spring natural water in Javiq	Malishevë	0.51	III	2014	Nature monument with botanic values
NM_98	Spring water in Carravranë	Malishevë	9.76	III	2014	Nature monument with botanic values
NM_99	Cave in Panorc	Malishevë	279	III	2014	Nature monument with geomorphologic and speleological values
SPECIAL PROTECTED AREA FOR BIRDS (109 ha)						
ZVM_001	Wetland of Henci-Radeve	F. Kosove, Graçanice, Lipjan	109	V	2014	Area with specific nature characteristics: ornithological, ihtiological, hydrological, botanic and landscape
REGIONAL NATURE PARK (1126 ha)						
PN_001	Gërmia Park	Prishtinë	1126	V	1987	Nature park with scientific, educative, culture and tourist values
PROTECTED LANDSACAPE (85 ha)						
PM_001	Shkugza	Gjakovë	70		2011	Area with botanic, educative and tourist values
PM_002	Pishat e Deçanit (eng. Deçans Pines)	Deçan	15		1969	Area with botanic, educative, culture and tourist values

Source: State of Nature Report 2010 – 2014 MESP/KEPA/KINP 2015



Republika e Kosovës  
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo  
Qeveria -Vlada-Government

Ministria e Mjedisit dhe Planifikimit Hapësinor  
Ministarstvo Sredine i Prostornog Planiranja  
Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning



Zyra e Sekretarit të Përgjithshëm / Kancelaria Gjenerale Sekretara / Office of the General Secretary

Nr. 31/2016

Data: 24.02.2016

Sekretari i Përgjithshëm i Ministrisë së Mjedisit dhe Planifikimit Hapësinor, në mbështetje të nenin 38 të Ligjit nr. 03/L-159 për Administratën shtetërore të Republikës së Kosovës, (Gazeta Zyrtare, Nr. 82, 21 tetor 2010), duke u bazuar në nenin 17 (paragrafi 5 dhe 6) të Rregullores Nr. 02/2011 për Fashat e përgjegjësisë administrative të Zyrës së Kryemadrisit dhe Ministrive (Gazeta Zyrtare, nr.1/18 prill 2011), duke marrë parasysh nenin 7 paragrafi 3 : Udhëzimit Administrativ të QRK Nr. 02/2012 për procedurat, kriteret dhe metodologjinë e përgatitjes dhe miratimit të dokumenteve strategjike dhe planeve për zbatimin e tyre si dhe neni 140 dhe neni 141 i Ligjit Nr.03/L-233 për Mbrojtjen e Natyrës, nxjerr:

#### V E N D I M

Për themeliminë e Grupit Punues për hartimin e Planit të Veprimit për Biodiverzitetin 2016 - 2020

I. Themelohet Grupi Punues për hartimin e Planit të Veprimit për Biodiverzitetin 2016 - 2020 në këtë përbërje:

- |                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Z. Ismail Hetemaj,      | DMM, Kryetar   |
| 2. Znj.Hidajete Zhuri,     | DIEKP, anëtare |
| 3. Z. Avdetullah Berisha,  | DAQ, anëtar    |
| 4. Z. Fadil Bajraktari,    | IKMN, anëtar   |
| 5. Z. Zymer Mirasori,      | DMM, anëtar    |
| 6. Znj. Miradije Gërguri,  | DMM, anëtare   |
| 7. Znj. Viora Osaj,        | DL, anëtare    |
| 8. Z. Ibrahim Balaj,       | DMM, anëtar,   |
| 9. Z. Shukri Shabani,      | DMM, anëtar    |
| 10. Z. Qenan Maxhuni,      | IKMN, anëtar   |
| 11. Z. Riza Murseli,       | IPH, anëtar    |
| 12. Z. Samir Strani,       | DMM, anëtar    |
| 13. Znj. Valmira Gashi,    | DMM, anëtare   |
| 14. Znj. Neshmije Kamberi, | IKMN, anëtare  |
| 15. Znj.Leonora Durmishi,  | DU, anëtare    |

- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 16. Z. Venhar Nushi,       | ZPS e ZKM, anëtar   |
| 17. Z. Remzi Sylejmani,    | MF, anëtar          |
| 18. Znj. Erëza Abrashi,    | MIE, anëtare        |
| 19. Z. Kemajl Kadriu,      | MBPZHR, anëtar      |
| 20. Z. Lumturije Geci,     | MTI, anëtare        |
| 21. Z. Naser Zhjeqi,       | MI, anëtar          |
| 22. Znj. Ryve Prekorogja,  | MASHT               |
| 23. Z. Elez Krasniqi,      | UP, anëtar          |
| 24. Z. Avni Hajdari,       | UP, anëtar          |
| 25. Z. Ferim Gashi,        | UP, anëtar          |
| 26. Z. Nexhmedin Ramadani, | OJQ "Finch", anëtar |
| 27. Z. Fatos Lajçi,        | OJQ "ERA", anëtar   |
| 28. Një përfaqësues,       | MZHE                |

- II. Grupi punues e ka për detyrë përgatitjen e Planit të Veprimit për Biodiverzitet 2016 - 2020 dhe rishikimin e Strategjisë për Biodiverzitet 2011-2020 nëse vlerësohet e nevojshme.
- III. Vendimi hyn në fuqi në ditën e nënshkrimit.

Vendimi i dërgohet:

- Anëtarëve të Grupit Punues,
- Kabineti të Ministrit,
- Zyres së Sekretarëve të Përgjithshëm: ZKM, MF, MIE, MBPZHR, MTI, MI, MZHE dhe MASHT,
- Arkivoës së MMPH-së.



Sekretar i Përgjithshëm i MMPH-së