

Supporting the implementation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan in the Municipality of Srebrenica through participatory strategic planning for conservation and human wellbeing

Transfer project in the framework of the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme

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Executive summary

“Supporting the implementation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan in the Municipality of Srebrenica through participatory strategic planning for conservation and human wellbeing” is a transfer project defined and implemented in the scope of the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme. It revolves around incorporating two burning issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina - rich biodiversity but weak conservation efforts, and abundance of natural resources but high poverty and unemployment rates – into a common framework applied on the Municipality of Srebrenica. The area is renowned for its exceptional natural characteristics, but is also a symbol of the tragic Bosnian war in the 1990s, a site of genocide and an economically ravaged bordering community. Using the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, a set of concepts and approaches in conservation project design, management and monitoring implemented through the Miradi software, the project is aimed at optimizing the link between nature conservation and human wellbeing in Srebrenica. It is a showcase of a participatory strategic planning and also aspires to achieving benefits beyond conservation, like community healing and local development.

Biodiversity values of the area, chosen strategies and human wellbeing targets were identified through stakeholder consultation and using the existing Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), a 2011 document which is officially adopted but not sufficiently developed and fit for implementation. However, the LBAP is a good basis for a more focused conservation planning to be done using Miradi. Therefore, stakeholders identified the species of *Picea omorika*, forest biotopes of the area and the Drina river canyon ecosystem as key conservation targets. Direct threats to biodiversity should to be addressed through three main strategies: coming up with alternative income sources, ensuring full legal protection of vulnerable ecosystems in Srebrenica and providing educational environmental programmes to local people. These all would have a direct positive impact on improving human wellbeing in the Municipality.

Key project partners are the Republika Srpska Institute for Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage, a leading conservation authority for the area in

question, the Municipality of Srebrenica, local NGOs and the United Nations Environment Programme – Regional Office for Europe.