

Working Sub Groups 5: Nature

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NIRAS umweltbundesamt^U

The project implemented by the Consortium of NIRAS (lead)
and Umweltbundesamt GmbH

OVERVIEW

- Component 5 aims to address nature protection issues and the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy 2020
- Major expected results are:
 - 1) To contribute to the implementation of EU Macro-Regional Strategies EUSDR and EUSAIR
 - 2) To strengthen regional cooperation for combating illegal logging and related trade
 - 3) To contribute to fight wildlife crime regionally and globally



Approach

- The Beneficiary Countries involvement and ownership of work in the Nature WSGs is essential for success and long term benefits
- The work is implemented with a cooperative and trust based relationship between the beneficiaries, the European Commission and the project team
- The working sub groups are lead by the project team leader and composed of the nominated coordinators from each of the beneficiary countries



Working Sub Group 1 - EU Strategies, including the Macro-Regional Strategies

- Study on green infrastructure deployment and ecological connectivity status in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, N. Macedonia and Serbia (expected Apr 2020)
- Study with initial recommendations for establishment of new marine protected areas in the Adriatic Sea basin, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro (expected Sep 2020)
- Capacity building on invasive alien species (2 workshops in 2020 and 2021)
- regional conference on the Biodiversity Strategy (expected Nov 2019)



Working Sub Group 2 - Combating illegal logging and related trade

- study on illegal logging and timber trade flows in the region (expected May 2020)
- study on existing administrative and legislative aspects related to forest management and related mechanisms to ensure legality and traceability of timber and mapping of relevant stakeholders (expected February 2020)
- Exchange of information and best practices on managing illegal timber – including operators (2 workshops Feb 2020 and Apr 2021)
- Involvement in INTERPOL's LEAF project and the forest crime working group



Working Sub Group 3 - Managing wildlife trade in the region

- ad hoc assistance, when/if requested by the beneficiaries, to review legislation, permitting documents, and procedures through regional or national workshops, and/ or expert missions (throughout the project life cycle)
- Capacity building on CITES for enforcement authorities (3 workshops Jan and Oct 2020, Sep 2021)



Working Sub Group 3 - Managing wildlife trade in the region (slide 2)

- One other initial objective: create a regional wildlife trade regulation enforcement network.
 - Talks with the beneficiary countries so far showed their priorities are different, namely:
 - To build national networks among enforcement authorities (inspectorates, police, customs)
 - To improve the capacities of scientific authorities and enhance the participation in the CITES Enforcement Group.
 - Work has not started waiting for SC decision



Working Sub Group 3 - Managing wildlife trade in the region (slide 3)

FOR STEERING COMMITTEE DECISION

- What will this WG do regarding the regional network for enforcement?
 - To create the regional network as initially planned?
 - To assist building national networks among enforcement authorities (inspectorates, police, customs)?
 - To enhance the participation of the beneficiaries in the CITES Enforcement Group?
 - To integrate an already existing regional network in environmental crimes, nature protection and illegal logging within EPPA, in a similar way as former ECENA was integrated within RENA?



POINTS for DISCUSSION and DECISION regarding the Nature WSGs

- What are the beneficiaries' priorities or recommendations for the planned work presented above? In particular regarding:
 - 1) Scope of the studies (GI, MPAs, Illegal Logging and Trade, existing Legal and Procedural infrastructure to ensure timber legality)
 - 2) Scope of capacity building activities in invasive alien species, timber and CITES
 - 3) Scope of biodiversity conference
 - 4) Cooperation with INTERPOL
 - 5) Way forward regarding the regional wildlife trade regulation enforcement network or alternative activities



Thank you for your attention

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