



OPEN REGIONAL FUND FOR SOUTH-EAST EUROPE BIODIVERSITY (ORF BD)

Sub-project „Regional Network for Biodiversity Information Management and Reporting“ (SP BIMR)



**Capacity-building workshop for Central and Eastern Europe on
achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12**

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ORF Biodiversity

- **Commissioned by:** German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- **Countries:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, (Croatia)
- **Overall term:** August 2015 – August 2018
- **Political partner:** Regional Council of Cooperation (RCC)





Regional Challenges Related to Biodiversity (1)

- Compliance with EU Nature Legislation
- Compliance with EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020
- Compliance with EIA and SEA Directives



UNCBD/other conventions' requirements

- NBSAP/other* implementation, monitoring and reporting

(*Bern Convention, Aarhus Convention, Ramsar Convention, World Heritage Convention, Washington Convention)

Administration

- Technical, human and financial capacity at central/local level

Vertical and horizontal integration and knowledge

- Coordination (local/national/regional)



Regional Challenges related to Biodiversity (2)

Vertical and horizontal integration and knowledge

- Awareness of biodiversity, ecosystem services and values
- Inclusion of biodiversity values in economic sector decisions
- Acknowledging climate change adaptation potential

Civil society

- Weak or no access to environmental information and EIA
- Weak or no public participation/stakeholders in decision-making

Crosscutting issues of concern

- Sustainability of measures (institutional, financial, HCD)
- Enforcement, low investments, parallel activities with limited and ad-hoc coordination and consultation mechanisms



ORF Biodiversity

Objective: Biodiversity institutions in SEE increasingly use regional cooperation for the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020.



Results expected:

1. Improving knowledge of actors in the region regarding the economic value of biodiversity,
2. Improving competences of regional network partners regarding reporting on biodiversity conservation,
3. Initiating transboundary ecosystem management measures.



Sub-project „Regional Network on Biodiversity Information Management and Reporting (BIMR)“

Objective:

Capacities of partner institutions on BIMR to meet CBD and EU requirements have been improved.

Duration:

- 07/2016-06/2018

Budget:

- About 490,000 EUR

Beneficiaires, partners and contribution:

- **Ministries of Environment, Environmental Protection Agencies, ...**
- Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) - support for REWG/BDESS TF
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - support for CD



Rationale of SP BIMR

CBD and EU integration:

- Country commitments to CBD on SP BIMR in terms of National Reports and NBSAPs;
- Strategic Plan for BD (2011-2020) – Strategic Goal C (Aichi Targets 11 and 12)

EU integration:

- Transposition and full implementation of the *acquis communautaire* (Birds and Habitats Directive), EU BD Strategy 2020 (Target 1 – Fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directive).

Regional aspect:

- From the country level to the regional (SEE) level and from regional to global (reporting) and national level (implementation),

Existing efforts:

- IUCN Program “Capacity Development Needs and Priorities for Nature Conservation in SEE” (2016), WWF Assessment using PA-BAT instrument, CBSL GIZ project, GIZ Global CBD support project, country monitoring and reporting, ...



Background / Context

Context:

To conserve and sustainably use biodiversity assets and valuable natural resources under a regional concerted approach, a regional consensus on a BIMR mechanism in line with CBD and EU requirements need to be properly set up. *This will enable regional exchange of data and information for collaborative management of shared biodiversity resources.*

Key problem:

Key challenges in all countries relate to technical capacities, standards and systems for:

(i) data collection, (ii) data verification and validation, (iii) institutional set-up, and (iv) human and financial resources.

While selective data on biodiversity (species, habitats) exists, data collection and analysis is usually conducted in isolation, not shared with other key stakeholder groups, generally difficult to find and not made publicly available. Therefore, decision makers are ill-informed to support the development of policies and incentive measures for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.



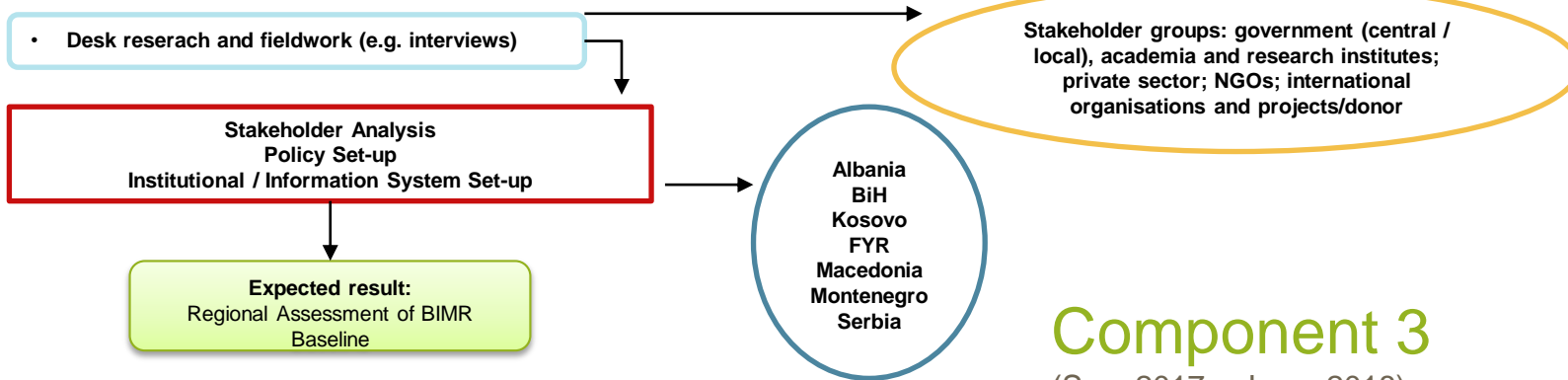
BIMR SP Components

- 1) Regional Assessment of BIMR Baseline;
- 2) Development of BIMR Regional Guidelines; and
- 3) Piloting of BIMR Regional Guidelines.



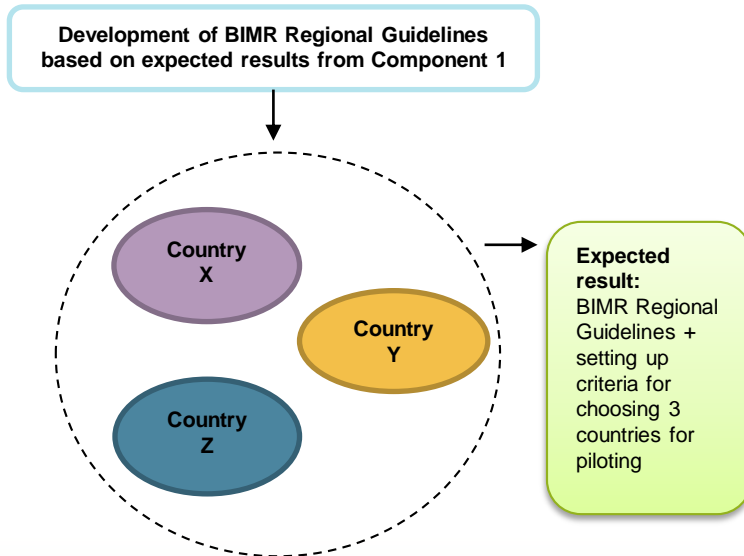
Component 1 (Jul, 2016 – Jan, 2017)

Carried by: 3 local experts from SEE region + 1 regional-expert (Croatia)



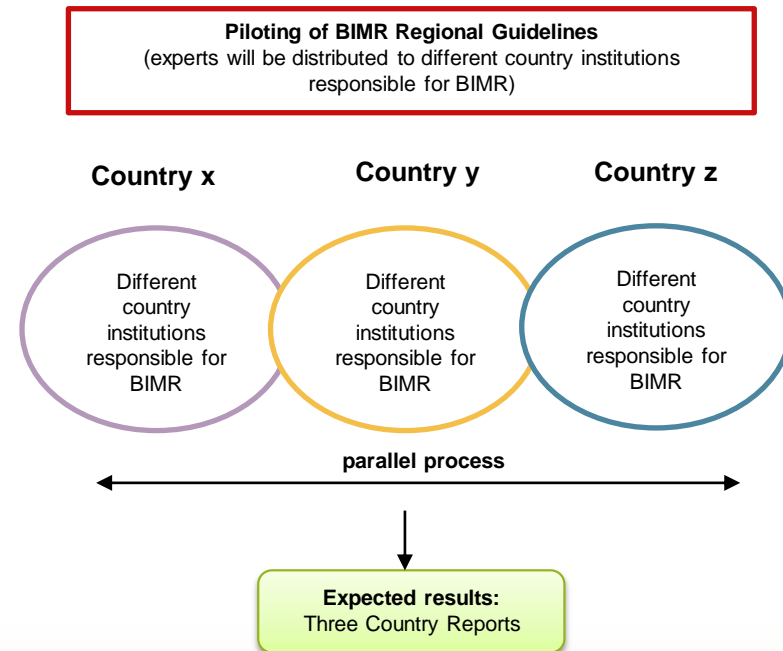
Component 2 (Jan – Oct, 2017)

Carried by: 9 local experts from SEE region + regional and international experts



Component 3 (Sep, 2017 – June, 2018)

Carried by: local, regional and international experts





Why did we choose to work on BIMR Regional Guidelines instead of working on monitoring and reporting of specific species?

Very complex and difficult to manage...

1. Focus on species diversity – which one?

Critically endangered, invasive, endemic, economically important, biodindicators that are regionally common? Animal or plant?

2. Location of species diversity – which one?

Protected Areas, Ramsar Areas, Important Bird Areas or?

3. Monitoring and reporting – how?

Equipment, data collection and analysis, methodology, tools for monitoring, reporting mechanism?

4. National Red Books and Red Lists – exist or not?

5. Species Management and Action plan – exist or not?





Red Lists and Red Books in SEE

Country	Red Books – exist?	Red List – exist?
Albania	Red Book of Threatened and Rare Plants of Albania (1995)	Yes
	Red Book of Threatened Plants, Plant Associations and Animals (1997)	
	Red Book of Threaened Fauna of Albania (2006)	
BiH	Red Book of Flora (prepared by Šilić (1996) but not adopted)	No
FBIH	X	Yes
RS	X	No
Kosovo	Red Book of Vascular Flora of the Republic of Kosovo (2013)	Yes
FYR Macedonia	No	No
Montenegro	No	No
Serbia	Red Book of Flora of Serbia	Yes (under development phase)
	Red Book of Butterflies of Serbia	
	Red Book of Fauna of Serbia I - Amphibians	
	Red Book of Fauna II – Reptiles	
	<u>Note:</u> in the period 2015 – 2018 the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection is going to finance the development of further Red Books on Flora II edition, Mushrooms, Fishes, Birds and Mammals	
Croatia		Yes



On which of the problems with PAs in SEE region we should concentrate?

- The methodology for calculation of national protected area coverage varied from country to country
- Designation of PAs is questionable
 - - proclamation since 1950' without procedure)
 - - not harmonised with IUCN protected area management categories
- Transboundary conservation? Which region?
- To support governance of the PAs?
 - lack of management plans for PAs and questionable how effective they are
 - lack of human and financial capacities in PAs
 - low level of awareness regarding the benefits of PAs

Protected area surface	Albania	BiH	Croatia	Macedonia	Montenegro	Serbia	Sloveni a	TOTAL terrestrial protected areas ¹	TOTAL marine protected areas ²
km ²	4,600.6	1,015.9 4	7,553.6 6	2,300.83	1,631.32	5,642.0 4	2,728.8 1	24,725.16	748.04
% of country surface ³	16	1.98	8.58	8.97	11.78	6.38	13.43	8.6	1.8



Questions for WS discussion:

1. What is CBD guidance for the reporting from the region in view of latest discussion and recommendations (IPBES, SBSTA, SBI), SDG 15 and harmonization with CCF reporting?
2. What are experiences from WS participants for transboundary/regional BD monitoring and reporting (good practices)?
3. Is there any guidance available in other CEE countries related to
 - (i) data collection, (ii) data verification and validation, (iii) institutional set-up, and (iv) human and financial resources?
4. How can we link to global/international similar initiatives to share and learn ?



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