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of the European Landscape Convention
in Bosnia and Herzegovina***

Drawing landscape policies for the future

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INTRODUCTION***

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The status of implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Bosnia & Herzegovina and the Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina

General information about Bosnia and Herzegovina's landscape

The institutional framework of environmental protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Based on the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is no institution at state level that manages the environment, but, within the organisational structure of government entities, some ministries deal with environmental issues and entity governments co-operate on issues of common interest through the Environmental Co-ordination Committee that was established in 1998. On the creation of the Inter-Entity Environmental Protection Agency in 2006, the Committee ceased its work. According to the Law on Ministries and Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Affairs is responsible (in co-operation with entity ministries) for the implementation of international environmental obligations in the territory of B&H.

The institutional framework of environmental protection in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Environmental administration in the Federation of B&H has an extremely fragmented and complex institutional structure (three levels – Federal, canton and municipality). Responsibility for environmental issues belongs mostly to the Federal Ministry of Tourism and the Environment, and some other institutions:

- Federal Ministry of Physical Planning;
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management;
- Federal Ministry of Energy, Mining and Industry;
- the Environmental Protection Fund of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- the Federal Authority for Inspection Activities;
- and others at the cantonal and municipality level.

In this situation, lack of a strong vertical and horizontal co-ordination has led to very poor, inefficient and costly environmental management in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Laws regarding landscape in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 2003, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a range of laws, including the Law on Nature Protection.

However, a large number of acts have not yet been adopted, and the ones that have been adopted are not in line with the laws adopted at different levels of government. This causes certain conflicts in the implementation of these laws.

The following specific legislation is being developed for the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Law on Nature Protection –
www.unep.ba/tl_files/unep_ba/LAWs_MEAs/Laws_English/Law_on_Nature_Protection_final_e.pdf
 - Law on Environmental Protection –
www.unep.ba/tl_files/unep_ba/LAWs_MEAs/Laws_English/F-L_Law_final_e.pdf
 - Law on Spatial Planning
 - Law on Forests
 - Law on Water Protection –
www.unep.ba/tl_files/unep_ba/LAWs_MEAs/Laws_English/Law_on_Water_Protection_final_e.pdf
- and others.

Landscape definition in domestic legislation

Landscape is a land or maritime area formed by the action of nature and man with extraordinary aesthetic, ecological and / or cultural value, and often with large shifts in biological diversity.

The first two categories of protection, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are under the responsibility of the Parliament of the Federation of B&H, while other categories (from the third to the sixth, which is protected Landscape) are under the responsibility of

the canton. If the protected areas are located on the territory of two or more cantons, these areas are proclaimed by the FBiH Parliament.

In order to increase the protected areas, it is necessary to develop and implement a methodology that will allow permanent monitoring of the conditions and changes in protected areas and their environment. The highest priority should be given to the development of a comprehensive information system. This could prevent further degradation of natural resources.

It is also necessary to establish professional institutions (Federal institutes for the protection of nature) that should be directly involved in all spheres of conservation, protection, monitoring and sustainable management of protected areas. It is very important to make a special link and communication channels with the local community, which should be included in all spheres.

The First Strategy and Action Plan was drawn up for the period 2008-2015. The Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2015-2020 represents a continuation of global strategic planning and reporting.

Since the ratification of the European Landscape Convention in 2012, principles of the convention have been established in the policies and strategic documents.

The most important programmes and activities of 2017 were:

- adoption of strategic documents in the field of the environment with an integration policy at state level, with the adoption of an effective mechanism of co-ordination at entity level;
- implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan adopted for the period 2008-2018 in accordance with the priorities defined by the Budget Framework of the Federation of B&H and the budget for 2017, where transfers were planned to: help the waste management and technical regulation of landfills; dispose of dangerous waste; establish institutions (companies) at federal and cantonal level for the protection of certain high-value natural areas; promote environmental protection and raise public awareness on environmental protection;
- the development of the institutional framework and legislation, including the adoption of new laws, regulations and amendments to existing ones, with the aim of harmonising the laws with EU regulations for individual components of the environment: ie, air, water, soil, nature, noise and waste management, and the establishment of the necessary environmental institutional reorganisation and rationalisation of existing federal agencies.

In addition, there are a number of ongoing projects concerning landscape, in different geographical areas. All planned activities and programmes are co-ordinated with the Federal Ministry of the Environment and Tourism, and they are based on the objectives set by the Law, the National Environmental Strategy and other relevant strategic documents, action plans and international agreements.

Protected landscapes in the Federation of B&H

Currently, there are three protected landscapes situated in the territory of the Federation:

- Bijambare
- Trebevic

– Bentbaša

Bijambare

The Bijambare area, covering 497 ha, was proclaimed (in 2003) by law as a protected area of the fifth category (“protected landscape”). It is highly valued because of its natural beauty and richness, with a thick, ancient evergreen forest, a variety of pine trees and beautiful meadows crossed by two creeks that form small lakes and then sink underground into karstified limestone rock base.

These areas are managed on the basis of zoning and the Management Plan with separate regulations enacted by the internal acts of the institution that manages the particular area. Recreational use of these spaces is allowed on the condition that it is not detrimental for the natural values of the protected area.



Source: www.infobosniatours.com/bijambare.php



Source: www.infobosniatours.com/bijambare.php

Trebevic

The second protected landscape in the Federation of B&H is the Trebevic area. The Law on Proclamation of Protected Landscape of the Trebević Mountain was adopted in 2014. This law established the protection of the Trebević area and its natural heritage, covering about 400 ha.



Source: www.infobosniatours.com/bijambare.php

The Trebević massif is approximately 12 km long and 8 km wide. Its highest peak rises to 1629 m. Trebević is an important tourist and recreational site, largely damaged during the recent war.



Source: www.klix.ba



Source: www.klix.ba



Source: <http://visitsarajevo.ba>

Bentbaša

The last site is Bentbaša, proclaimed as a protected landscape in 2017. It is located in Sarajevo.

The total coverage of the protected landscape of “Bentbasa” is 160.9 ha. It is divided into two zones. The first zone-nucleus has an area of 16.9 ha. Bentbasa is a unique combination of natural and cultural-historical values: for example 169 plant species and about 134 butterfly species have been identified in this area.

The Bentbaša area has a high level of biological, geomorphologic and hydrological diversity, and both cultural and historical riches.



Source: www.infobosniatours.com



Source: www.nap.ba