



**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**  
**Ministry of Environmental Protection**

**Report on Complaint No. 2021/7: Complaint on  
standby: Serbia: Alleged endangering of the wild  
animal species and protected areas due to the  
proposed construction of a lithium mine in the  
Jadar river valley**

**Snezana M. Prokic**

**44. Standing Committee Meeting**  
**2-6. 12. 2024, Strazbourg**





# Monitoring of the Implementation of the Bern Convention

- The Ministry of Environmental Protection is the competent authority for the monitoring of the implementation of the Bern Convention for the Republic of Serbia

The reporting on Complaint No 2021/7 including collaboration with competent institution and organisations:

- The Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure,
- The Ministry of Mining and Energy and
- The Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia,
- The internal report of the Ministry of Environmental Protection

**The Ministry regularly reports to the Bureau of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention on the progress of this Complaint**



# The Current Status of the Complaint No 2021/7

1. The Bureau was informed in the previous report, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Regulation repealing the Regulation on the designation of the Special Purpose Area for the execution of the Project for exploitation and processing of the mineral jadarite “Jadar” (published in the *Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, No. 8/22 of 20 January 2022).

**2. The Constitutional Court Decision determined that the Regulation repealing the Regulation on the designation of the Special Purpose Area for the execution of the Project for exploitation and processing of the mineral jadarite “Jadar” was not in accordance with the Constitution and the law.** The said Decision was published in the *Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, No. 59/2024 and came into force on 12 July 2024.

3. The Government, upon a proposal of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, adopted the **Regulation on the application of the Regulation on the designation of the Spatial Plan of the Special Purpose Area for the execution of the Project for exploitation and processing of the mineral jadarite “Jadar”**, thereby undertaking measures to revert the legal order into the state prior to the adoption of the unconstitutional Regulation. This Regulation was adopted by the Government on 16 July 2024.



# Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure

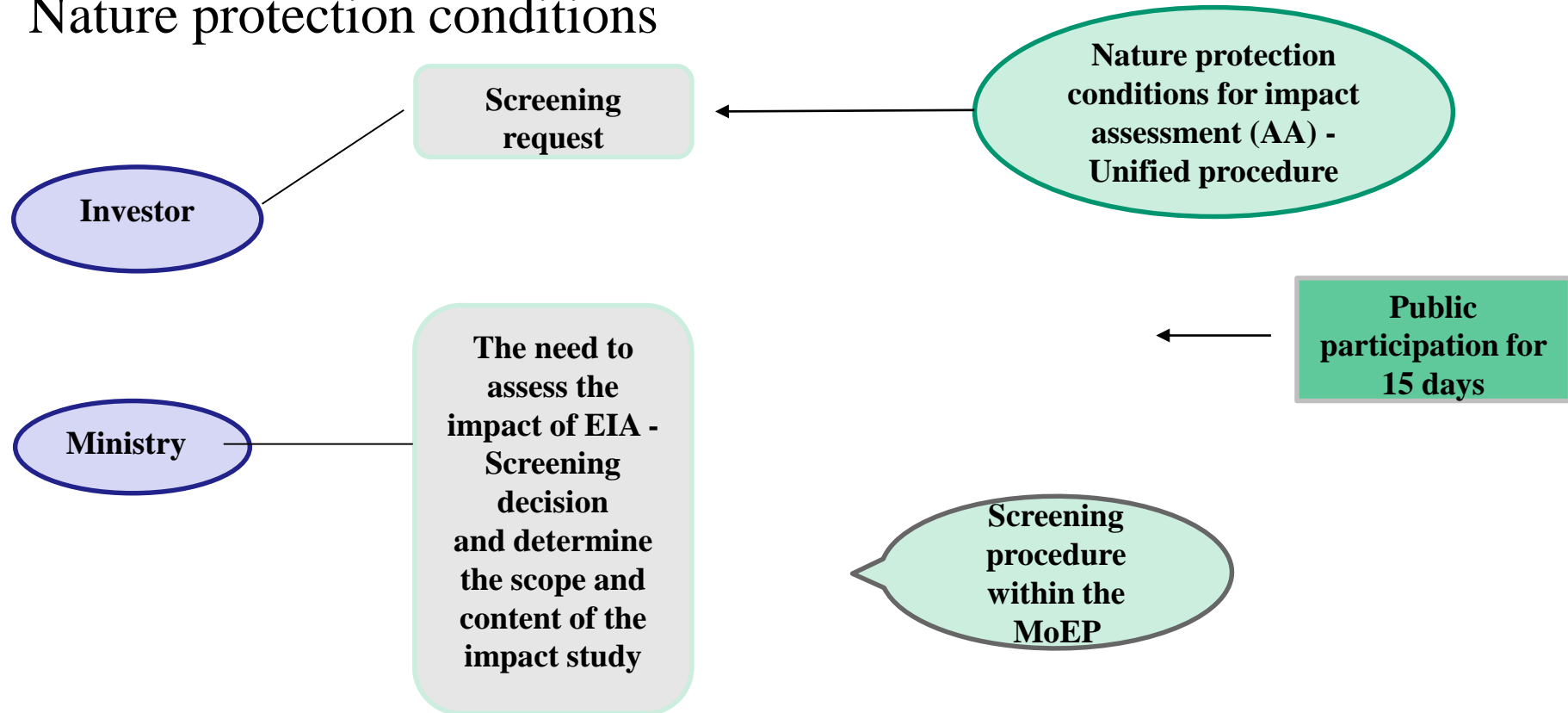
- The **Ministry of Environmental Protection** received from "RIO SAVA EXPLORATION" LLC Belgrade, a new request for determining the scope and content of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study of the underground exploitation project of lithium and boron deposits entitled "Jadar", on cadastral parcels within the cadastral municipalities of Gornje Nedeljice, Brnjac, Veliko Selo, Jarebice, Slatina, Stupnica and Šurice, the city of Loznica, in the scope of subzones 1A and 1B - the zone of mining activities according to the Spatial Plan of the area of special purpose for the implementation of the project of exploitation and processing of jadarite minerals in the "Jadar" deposit ” based on the Decree on determination of the Jadar Project Spatial Plan of the Special Purpose Area;
- Public hearing of the content of the request was organised on 17 September 2024.;
- Within the period of 15 days, 147 comments and opinions were received at the request in printed form and via official e-mail from citizens, civil society organizations, as well as political parties;
- The Ministry of Environmental Protection issued a Decision on the scope and content of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study dated 15.11.2024. and published on the website of the Ministry on 21. 11. 2024. including informing the media.



# Procedure of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

## Screening phase

### ➤ Nature protection conditions



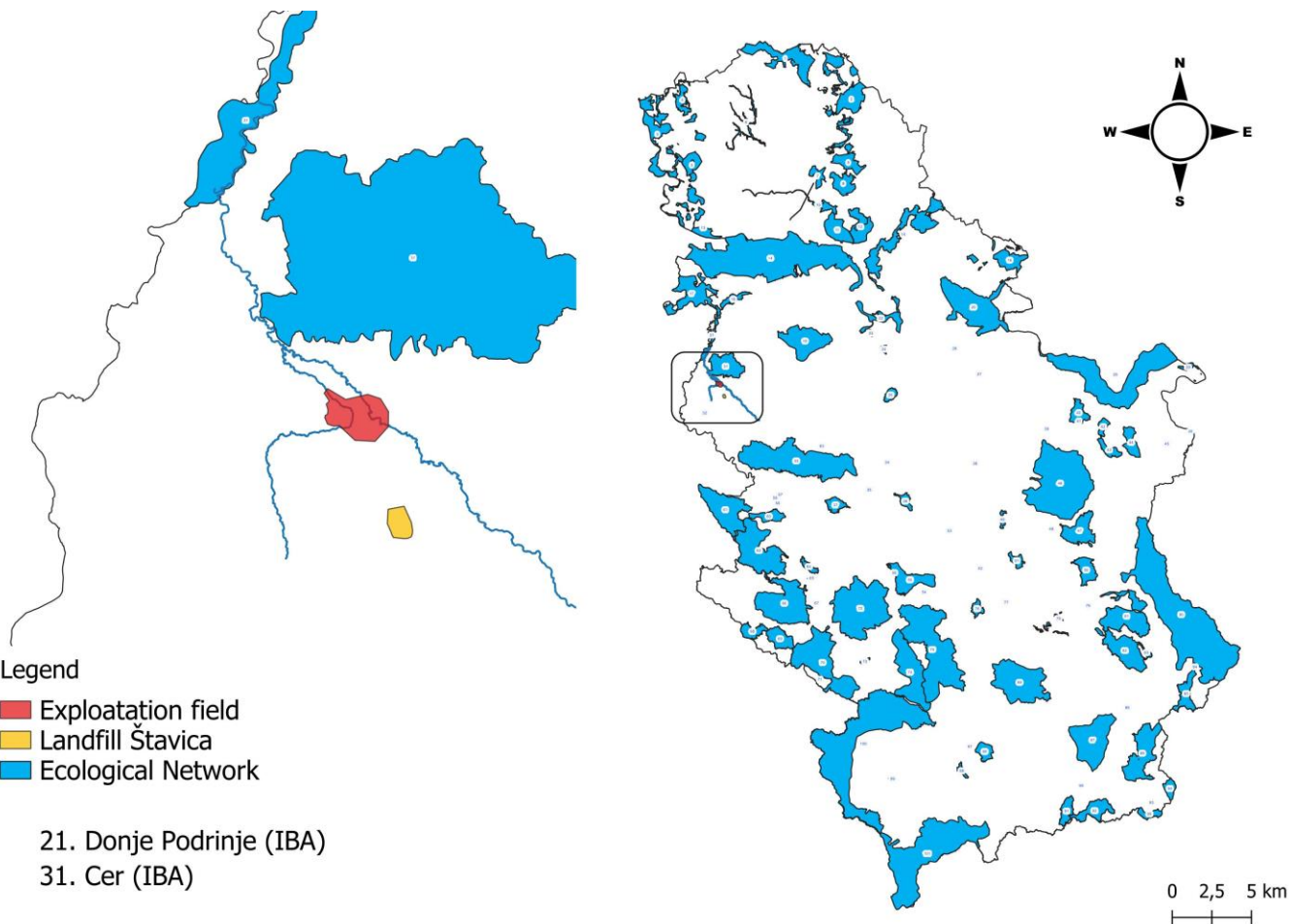


# The Nature Protection Conditions

- Investor of the "RIO SAVA EXPLORATION" LLC from Belgrade had issued a Decision on the Conditions for the Nature Protection for the development of the "Jadar" Lithium and Boron Deposit Exploitation Project by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia.
- In the Decision on the Nature Protection Condition, the Institute stated that within the spatial scope of the Lithium and Boron Exploitation Project in the "Jadar" deposit, **there were no protected areas, neither the ecologically significant areas of the ecological network of the Republic of Serbia** pursuant to the Decree on the Ecological Network.
- In order to protect strictly protected, protected and endangered wild species and to conserve recorded priority habitat types for the protection and mitigation measures are given and to be implemented including establishment of the system for monitoring the impact of mining activities in order to monitor.

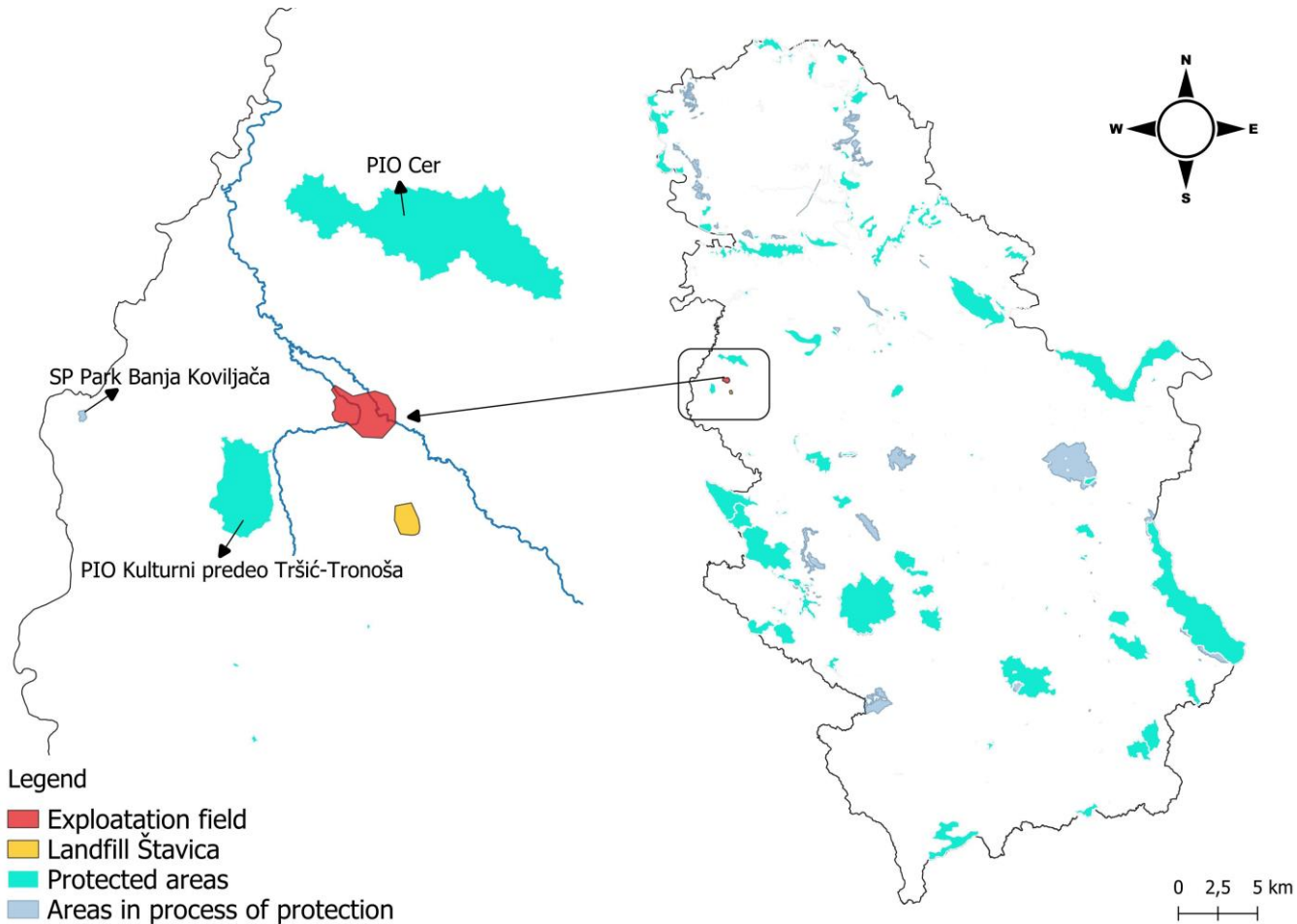


# The Ecological Network of the Republic of Serbia





# The National Protected Areas





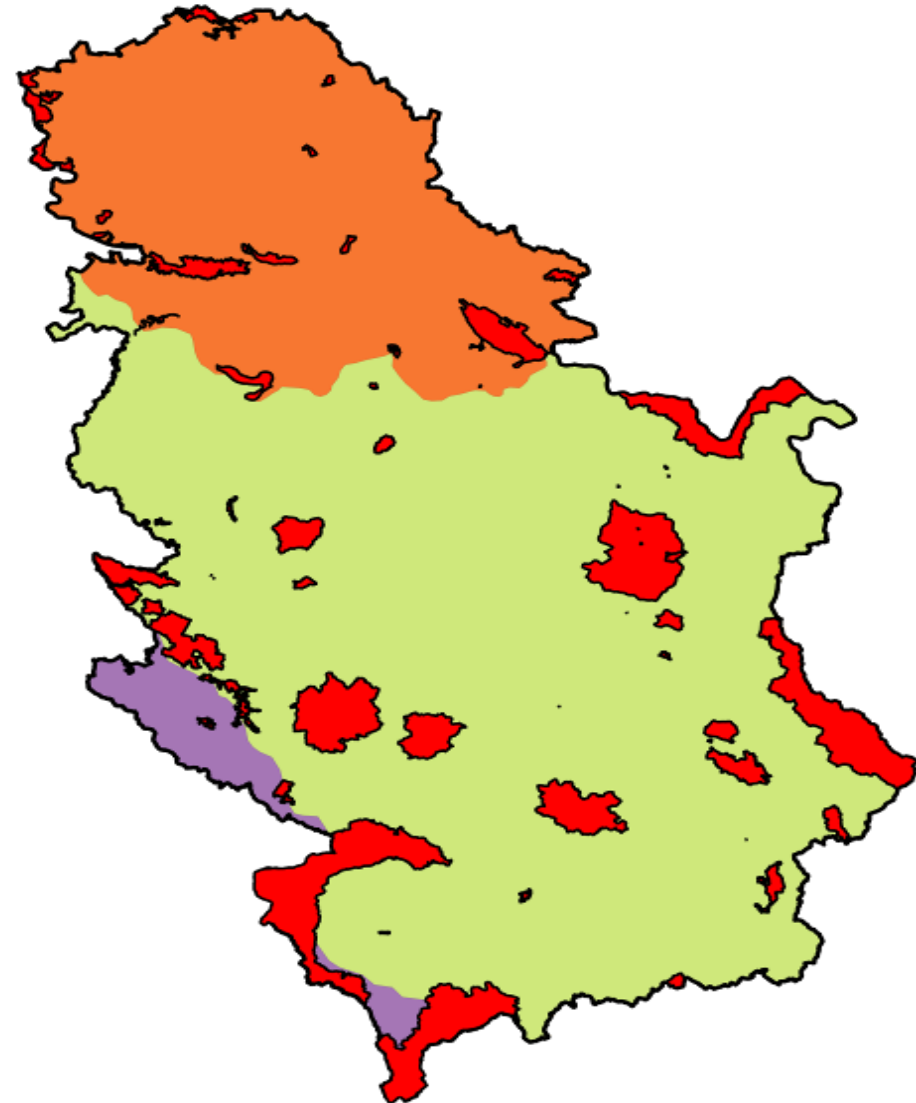


# 61 Candidat Emerald sites per Biogeographical Regions (11,48 % of Serbia) are part of the Ecological Network



**Indicative map of the European biogeographical regions, 2005**

- Alpine
- Anatolian
- Arctic
- Atlantic
- Black sea
- Boreal
- Continental
- Macaronesia
- Mediterranean
- Pannonian
- Steppic
- Outside data coverage

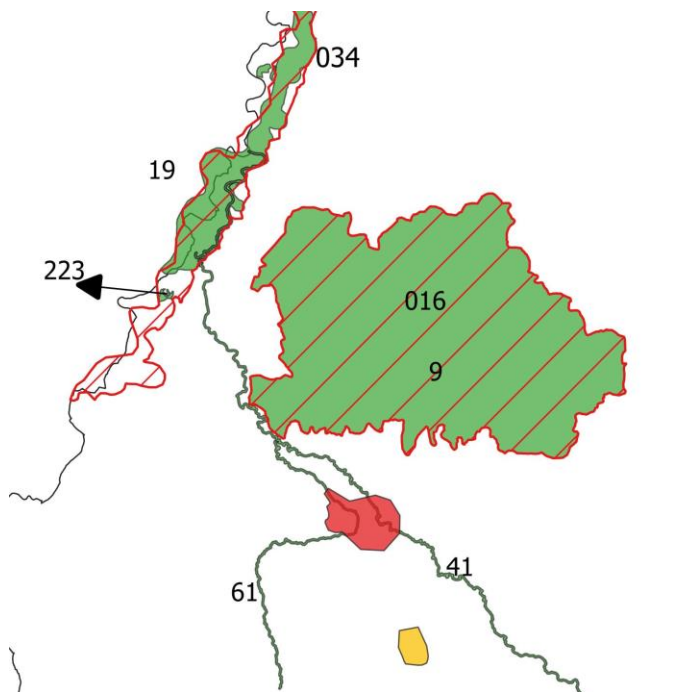




# Preliminary Natura 2000 sites-pSCI and SPA

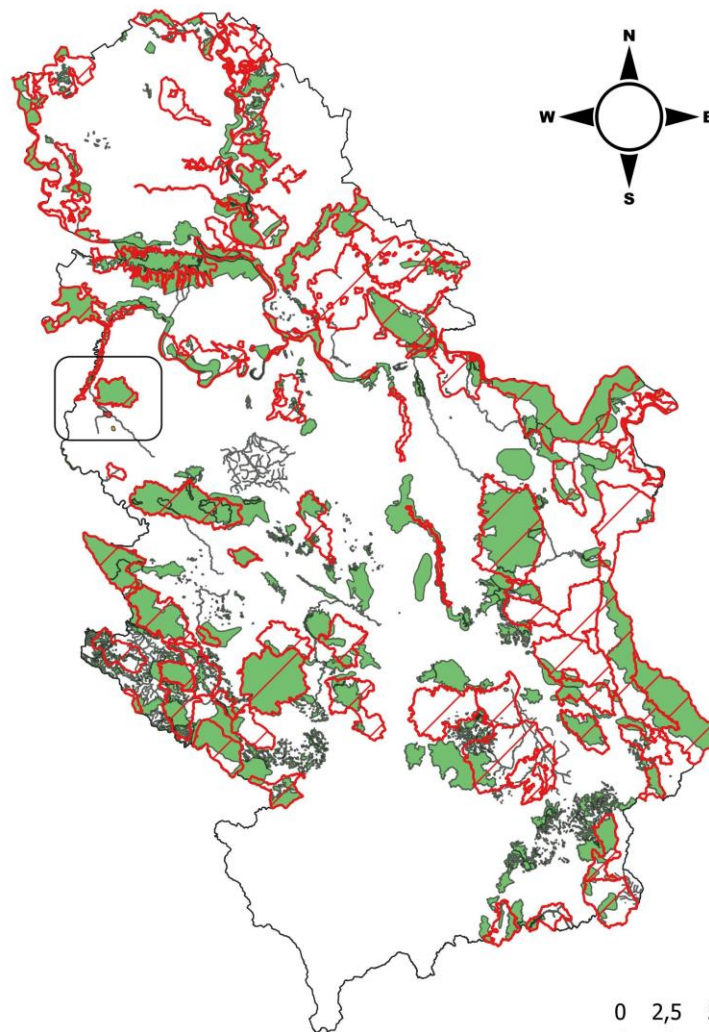
## -GIS and Databases (30%)

some of these sites are part of the Ecological Network



### Legend

-  Exploitation field
-  Landfill Štavica
-  pSCIs
- 9. Cer
- 19. Donje Podrinje
- 41. Jadar
- 61. Korenita
- 223. Drinsko-Savske Ade
-  pSPAs
- 016 Cer
- 034 Donje Podrinje





# Progress on Transposition of the Bern Convention and EU Directives in Serbia

## Strategic level established

- The Development Plan of the Republic of Serbia with Sustainable Development Goals -the preparation is in progress
- Strategy of the Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia- in public view
- Nature Protection Programme of the Republic of Serbia- the preparation is in progress
- Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy
- National Forestry Policy with Ecosystem Approach;
- Strategy for Water Management;
- Energy Development Strategy
- The Low-Carbon Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia
- Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Serbia

## Horizontal Legislation

- The Law on Spatial Plan
- The Law on Environmental Protection
- The Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment
- The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment
- The Law on mining and geological research including relevant Sectoral Laws



# The Progress on Transposition of the Bern Convention and EU Directives in Serbia

**The Law on Nature Protection** (“Official Gazette of RS”, No 36/2009, 88/2010, 91/2010 - correction, 14/2016, 95/2018 – other laws and 71/2021)

- The Decree on Ecological Network (“Official Gazette of RS”, No 102/2010)
- The Rulebook on proclamation and protection strictly protected and protected wild species of plants, animals and fungi (“Official Gazette of RS”, No. 5/10, 47/11,32/16 and 98/16)
- The Rulebook on habitat types, the criteria for the selection of habitat types, sensitive, endangered, rare and priority for protection habitat types (“Official Gazette of RS” no. 35/2010)
- The Rulebook on Compensatory measures (“Official Gazette of RS”, No. 20/2010)
- The Rulebook on special technical-technological solutions which enable unobstructed and safe communication of wild animals (“Official Gazette of RS”, No. 72/2010)

**The Law on Game and Hunting** (“Official Gazette of RS”, No 18/2010)

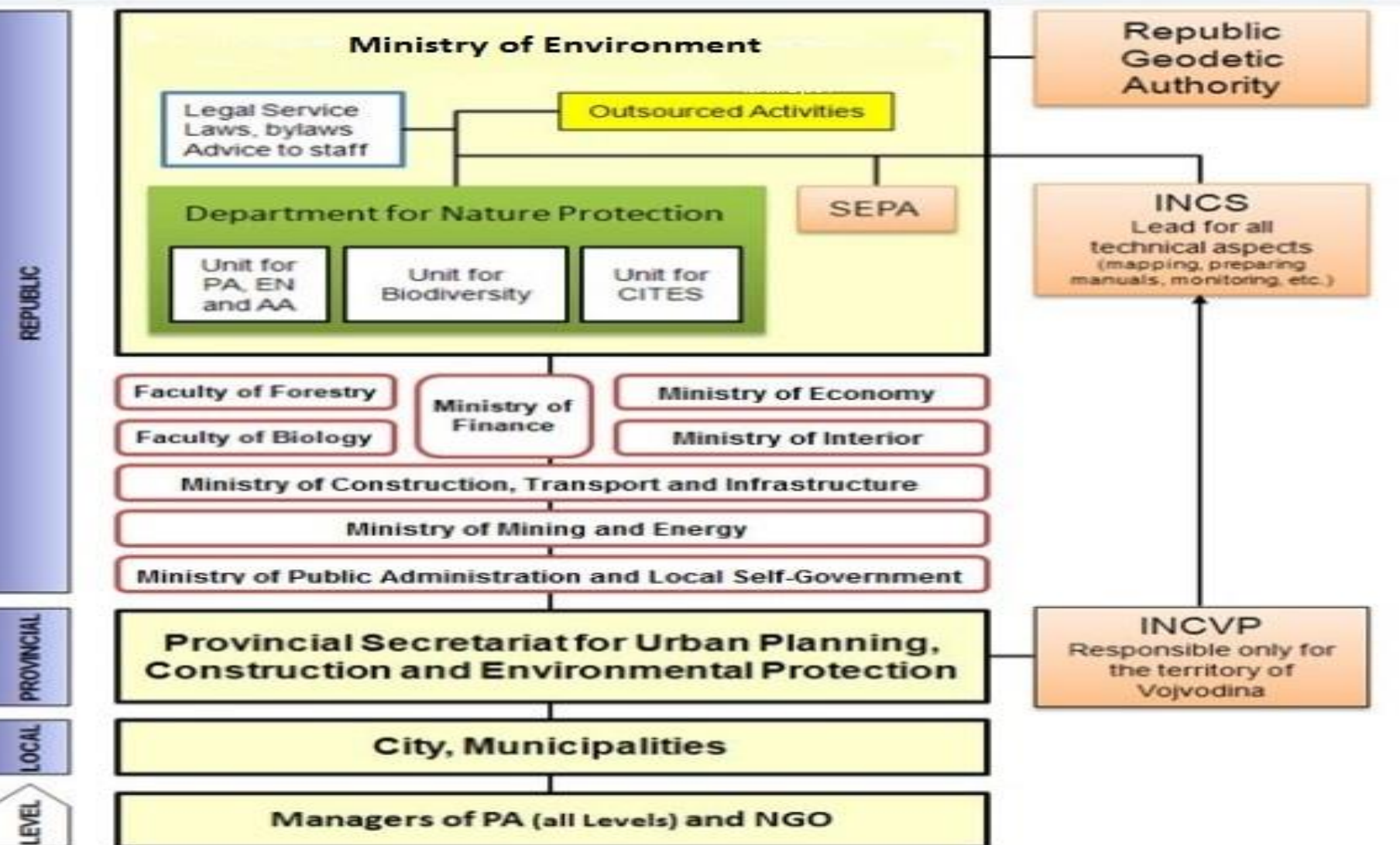
- Regulation on proclamation of protected game species by closed hunt season (“Official Gazette of RS”, No 9/12, 97/13, 55/15, 67/15,75/16 and 92/21)

**The Law on Protection and Sustainable Use of Fish Stocks** (“Official Gazette of RS”, No 128/14) and other laws and sublaw acts





# Institutional Set-up





# Implementation of the Bern Convention and Habitat Directive, EIA, SEA and AA

- The Appropriate assessment for the ecological network is the procedure that assesses of the possible impact of the strategy, plan, program, project, works or activities on the conservation objectives and integrity of the ecological network area;
- The Appropriate Assessment for ecological network procedure is carried out by the Ministry, and the authority responsible for environmental protection of the autonomous province;
- The Appropriate Assessment procedure consists of:
  - 1) a preliminary assessment and
  - 2) a main assessment
- For strategies, plans, and programs for which, in accordance with a special law, a strategic assessment procedure is carried out and for projects, for which, in accordance with a special law, an impact assessment procedure is carried out, eligibility assessment is carried out within those procedures
- Precautionary principle
- Compensatory measures
- Mitigation measures
- **Decree on Appropriate Assessment - the preparation is in progress**



# Ongoing legislative activities

In order to improve implementation mechanisms for the Bern Convention and EU Habitat Directive (NPAA)

- Strategy of the Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia- in public view
- Nature Protection Programme of the Republic of Serbia- the preparation is in progress;
- The new Law on Nature Protection
- The Decree on Appropriate Assessment
- The new Decree on Ecological Network
- Amendments to the relevant sectorial Laws (Law on SEA, Law on EIA, Law on Protection and Sustainable Use of Fish Stocks, Law on Water) will be considered in order to assess compliance of procedures and mechanisms required proper implementation of the Bern convention and Habitat Directive



# Future Goals and Activities

- Strengthening of Policy and Institutional capacities at all levels and synergism with relevant Sectors;
- Establishment of the coherent Monitoring System on Biodiversity and GIS databases;
- Provide financial resources from the donors and budget for continued financing of the projects for development of ecological network in Serbia including Natura 2000;
- Financial Resources for Nature Protection by the National Budget expanded each year including 2025;
- Strengthening capacities for using and managing of the GIS and provide specialized trainings;
- Development of the implementation of the SEA and EIA and AA.





**Thank you**