

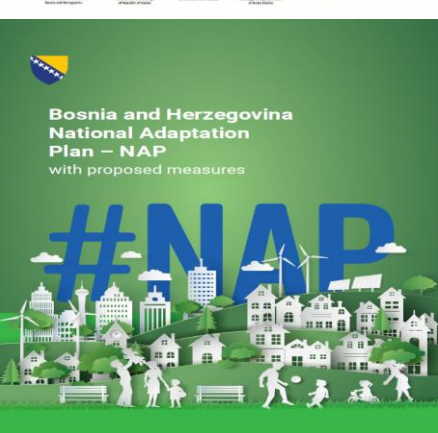
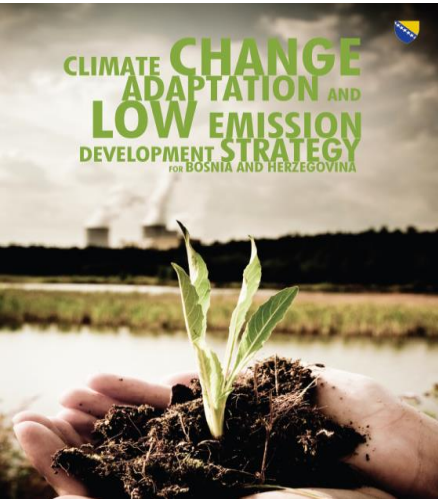


How climate change has been addressed by forest policy in the WB region

Country/territory:

Republic of Srpska / Bosnia and Herzegovina

13th – 15th of November,
Skopje, North Macedonia



Has climate change been recognized as a problem for forestry?
What figures or studies project changes in key forest parameters like precipitation and temperature?

Several publications directly or indirectly related to the topic of forestry in climate change:

- **FAO - The Forest Sector** in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2015)
 - **UNFCCC – 4 National Communications** and 2 Biennial update report on GHG emissions under UNFCCC (2009-2022)
 - **UNDP - Climate Change Adaptation and Low-Emission Strategy** Development for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020-2030 (2020)
 - **UNFCCC – National Determined Contribution** of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2020-2030 NDC
 - **UNDP – B&H National Adaptation Plan** (2021)
 - **ESAP – B&H Environmental Strategy and Action Plan 2030+**
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- ***Forestry Development Strategy** of the Republic of Srpska (has to be adopted)*
 - ***Law on Forests** of the Republic of Srpska (2008, 2013, 2020)*

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UNFCCC – 4 National Communications and 2 Biennial update report on GHG emissions under UNFCCC (2009-2022)



Figure 67: Projection of CO₂ (Gg) sinks in the forestry sector by scenarios

Some of the main risks recognized how climate change could affect the B&H forests are:

- Changes in forest distribution and composition
- Pathogens and disease outbreaks
- Increased frequency and extent of forest fires
- Drought, frost and heat related stress
- Changes in soil structure
- Changes in precipitation amount and distribution
- High level of tree mortality
- Reduction of biodiversity....



Does a climate change action plan exist, and how is forestry addressed in it?

UNDP - Climate Change Adaptation and Low-Emission Strategy Development for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020-2030 (2020)

- **INTRODUCTIONAL PART**, the **general context** of the **impact of climate change on forestry**, along with **12 key measures**, without **specific deadlines or financial framework**.
- **ADAPTATION MEASURES PART** for forestry, **8 key measures are defined**, with a **financial framework of around 6 million EUR**. Some of the measures include:
 - **Mapping of forest species composition** and establishment of **monitoring plots**
 - **Laws and bylaws adjusted** to the effect of climate change,
 - **Improve forest fire protection system**
- **MITIGATION MEASURES PART**, **3 key activities** are planned, with a total projected **budget of over 50 million EUR**, which relate to:
 - **Afforestation of barren land**, coppice and degraded forests,
 - **Establishment of plantations** of fast-growing species,



How is the role of forestry distinguished in other sectoral policies?

Can you provide examples?

In most strategic documents, especially in the **Forestry Development Strategy of the Republic of Srpska**, the **connection between the forestry sector and other sectors** was pointed out, for example:

- **Agriculture** in context of **agroforestry**
- **Water management** in context of **flood and erosion protection**
- **Nature protection** in context of **protected areas and biodiversity**
- **Industry** in context of **woodprocessing**

Some of the key measures in the RS **Forestry Development Strategy** relates:

- **Intersectoral cooperation** and strengthening of the **coordination between regulative and executive authorities**
- **Adjustment of intersectoral planning systems**





Is climate change recognized by forest policy, and if so, how?

- **YES**, the most within the **Forestry Development Strategy with an action plan**, where **climate change** is directly or indirectly recognized in all **FIVE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**.
- As an example is **Strategic goal 1**: Increasing forest coverage, productivity and quality of forests including increasing contribution to global **efforts to mitigate climate change**, with **total allocated budget of 50 milion EUR**
- **The Law on Forests** was originally from **2008**, so the **issue of climate change** was not directly addressed. This certainly **needs to be done** when **creating the new Law on Forests**.



What measures does forest policy prescribe for climate change mitigation and adaptation? Can you give examples of financial, educational, or legislative instruments?

MITIGATION	ADAPTATION
Carbon sequestration through the <u>expansion of forest areas</u>, trees, and the increase of carbon stock in forests 4. Kontrola štetočina i bolesti. Konzervacija zaliha karbona kroz smanjenje Conservation of carbon stocks through the <u>reduction of deforestation and degradation</u> 6. Kontrola štetočina i bolesti. Zamena sa unetihom vrstama od drveća Substitution with the <u>use of wood products</u> neće biti moguće da se vrstama drveća	Reduction of vulnerability and strengthening the <u>adaptive capacity of trees and forests</u>, especially in sensitive forest ecosystems ADAPTATION FOR FORESTS Integrirano upravljanje posredstvom Reduction of vulnerability and strengthening the <u>adaptive capacity of forest-dependent communities</u> FORESTS FOR ADAPTATION mogućnosti zaposijavanja.

EXAMPLES FROM STRATEGY

FINACIAL: Afforestation of baren land – 40 MIL EUR

EDUCATIONAL – Establishment of teaching-scientific bases and a network of permanent test areas

LEGISLATIVE – Creating new intersectoral institutional framework with significant focus on climate change

Are there secure monitoring and research instruments in place to track climate change? If yes, can you provide examples?

Partially, but not completely.

- Reporting and Diagnostic Service has been established within the Public Forest Enterprise, which partially addresses these issues.
- Hydrometeorological Institute of the RS is the focal point for Bosnia and Herzegovina for data aggregation and assessment of GHG emissions.
- A certain number (not enough) of permanent experimental plots have been established for the purpose of research activities.
- Indirect data from regular forest inventory during the preparation of the Forest Management Plans.

What gaps exist in current forest policy regarding climate change challenges?

- Bosnia and Herzegovina **does not have fully operational and standardized systems or methods for data collection and reporting on environmental data**
- **Data exchange and communication between different institutions, as well as the data exchange between the entities (FBiH and RS) is insufficiently developed.**
- **Official adoption of the Forestry Development Strategy with the action plan has not been completed.**
- **Funds for effective implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures in forestry sector exceed those currently available within Republic of Srpska and BiH.**
- **Limited administrative and material resources to address climate change and to carry out continuous monitoring and scientific-research activities.**

What objectives and measures would you recommend to address these gaps?

- BIH will need assistance in the form of technology transfer and capacity building in order to cover the costs of adaptation and mitigation.
- Intensifying international cooperation and intersectoral cooperation to strengthen administrative and material resources, participate in projects, and secure additional financial funds.
- Harmonizing the institutional and regulatory framework at the level of the Republic of Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and establishing a connection between global and national policies, methodologies, tools, and practices.

What objectives and measures would you recommend to address these gaps?

- **Aligning with international regulations** that directly or indirectly **link forestry and climate change** (such as the EU Deforestation Regulation - **EUDR**, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism - **CBAM**, and the establishment of a **national Emission Trading System**).
- **Creating a framework** for implementing **specific project activities in the forestry sector** to secure additional sources of financing (**A/R – Afforestation/Reforestation, IFM – Improved Forest Management**, etc.).
- **Intensifying scientific and research work** to determine **methods and approaches** for adaptation and mitigation **that are suitable for local conditions**.

Next steps

Mid-term plan for the next 3-5 years:

1. Start specific project activities to generate carbon credits as an additional source of financing for the forestry sector (in progress).
2. Initiate continuous training programs to strengthen administrative and staffing resources.
3. Officially adopt and implement the Forestry Development Strategy with the action plan.
4. Secure financing mechanisms through the consistent application of provisions of the Law on Forests (special-purpose funds for forests).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Management

