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United Nations Development Programme

Belgrade, 27 November 2025

Minutes from the Local Project Appraisal Committee for project "Restoration and connectivity of priority habitats for species conservation in Serbia"

Participants:

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Ms. Jelena Dučić, Head of Biodiversity Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection
Mr. Miroslav Tadić, Programme Analyst, UNDP
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Objective: Endorsement of the "Restoration and connectivity of priority habitats for species conservation in Serbia" project document.

UNDP team and the Ministry of Environmental Protection underlined the importance of the long and valuable partnership in the field of biodiversity and nature protection in Serbia. Both sides acknowledged that this project is the continuation of the previously successfully implemented activities in the nature protection area. UNDP will continue to assist the Government in its efforts to further enhance status of ecosystems and the biodiversity.

UNDP team presented the brief project background, along with the main project activities, as well as implementation arrangement. Presentation included following outcomes, outputs and activities:

Outcome 1: Improved Ecological Health and Connectivity of Degraded Old-Growth Forests, Wetlands, and Grasslands

Output 1.1: Restoration of Degraded Priority Habitats

- Activity 1.1.1: Assessment of Pilot Sites for Habitat Restoration, designing a competitive process / challenge call
- Activity 1.1.2: Implementation of Active Restoration Measures in at least 2 pilot sites selected through competitive process / challenge call
- Activity 1.1.3: Monitoring and Evaluation of restoration activities

Output 1.2: Establishment of Ecological Corridors

- Activity 1.2.1: Design at least 1 new ecological corridor that connects fragmented habitats (through competitive process/challenge call)
- Activity 1.2.2: Community and stakeholder involvement in corridor planning and implementation
- Activity 1.2.3: Implementation of at least 1 pilot corridor project priority habitat to facilitate movement for endangered species and genetic exchange
- Activity 1.2.4: Strengthen management effectiveness of 5 PAs anchoring corridors

Outcome 2: Improved Policy, Finance, and Institutional Enabling Environment for Habitat Conservation, Restoration and Connectivity

Output 2.1: Strengthened Frameworks for Biodiversity Conservation

- Activity 2.1.1: Review and update regulations for spatial planning, habitat conservation, restoration and connectivity in line with EU and international standards.

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- Activity 2.1.2: Development of guidelines and regulations for biodiversity corridors in infrastructure investment

Output 2.2: Secured Private Sector Funding

- Activity 2.2.1: Develop private sector partnership proposals and business cases to support habitat restoration
- Activity 2.2.2: Engagement with companies interested in enhancing ESG credentials.

Outcome 3: Enhanced stakeholder awareness and engagement for ecosystem restoration and corridor management

Output 3.1: Enhanced Stakeholder Knowledge

- Activity 3.1.1: Capacity-building workshops and practical training sessions for local/national authorities, infrastructure and energy sectors, PA managers, and municipalities on planning and executing habitat restoration and connectivity measures.
- Activity 3.1.2: Development and dissemination of training materials on habitat restoration and ecological connectivity.

Output 3.2: Awareness Campaigns and Educational Programs

- Activity 3.2.1: Design and implement habitat restoration and connectivity awareness campaigns.
- Activity 3.2.2: Educational programs for local communities on the biodiversity and ecosystem service benefits, and encouraging community involvement in conservation efforts.

Outcome 4: Successful project implementation and sustained results: Risk Management, M&E and Quality Assurance

Output 4.1 - Prepare, implement and monitor an integrated risk management system in line with UNDP and national policies

- Activity 4.1.1 Implementation and monitoring of safeguards risk framework
- Activity 4.1.2 Developing a Risk Management system for the project

Output 4.2 – M&E and Quality Assurance Systems

- Activity 4.2.1 Establishing a M&E system for the project
- Activity 4.2.2: Providing quality assurance of technical outputs, knowledge products, M&E and SES implementation

Project will be implemented in DIM modality – UNDP as main IP of the project and also is accountable to the KBF for the implementation of this project.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and UNDP will participate in the project board and ensure the project assurance function. The indicated Government/Ministry of Environmental Protection co-financing is counted as in-kind contribution to the project.

In conclusion, the project document as well as indicative timeline/work plan are acknowledged by the Government/Ministry of Environmental Protection and UNDP.
Any amendments to the project document content will be reflected in the project inception phase.

Record approved by:

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