

- Bosnia and Herzegovina is a unique country in many different ways. With its special geographical position, diverse climate and geomorphology, BiH is home to an extremely wide range of flora and fauna, with a high degree of endemic and relief forms of life. This includes more than 5000 species and subspecies of vascular plant, more than 100 species of fish and over 120 species of birds.
- Almost all environmental legislation operates at the level of the two Entities: Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska, and District Brčko of BiH. At the State level, the BiH Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MoFTER) coordinates and cooperates with relevant institutions at all levels, participates in the implementation of international agreements and projects, and participates in the work of international bodies in environmental protection.
- Climate change and its adverse effects on the environment are especially felt in developing countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, country has going through a political shift from the recent war, which not only affected the environment, but it also affected the country's capacity to properly respond to the growing needs. Environmental devastation is huge and it requires great effort and financial support to overcome the many problems present on the ground.
- A large and growing evidence base demonstrates that biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and restoration activities make positive and lasting contributions towards societal wellbeing and sustainability. This includes multiple benefit streams such as jobs, livelihood opportunities, disaster risk reduction, ecological benefits, climate change mitigation and adaptation, public health, and security and stability for current and future generations.
- Addressing climate change and its adverse effects requires an overall and coordinated effort by all. This includes the relevant institutions, but also the general public, as tackling environmental degradation is in everyone's interest. Restoration of nature means a wide range of activities and interventions that improve environmental conditions (e.g. ecological productivity) by avoiding, minimizing and reversing land and ecosystem degradation. These activities can often be designed to deliver multiple benefits (i.e. goods and services) that contribute to the current and future sustainability of communities and the planet.

- The soil, water and biodiversity are relevant to all streams of work. It is critical components of our efforts to save lives, protect people and could mediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, and provide a social and economic safety net for humanity, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable communities.
- The COVID-19 crisis confirmed how much we depend on each other as well as on other species and nature for our health, food systems and livelihoods. Every crisis presents an opportunity to assess the status quo and change behavioral dynamics. The fundamental shift in consciousness that has occurred due to the pandemic makes it impossible to return to “normal”. However, we can build a better future and protect our society by redesigning our approach.
- The new context in which we operate now and which will inevitably change more as time goes by means that there will be more windows of opportunity to change the ways of approaching issues, including potentially addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- Also, it will be very important to see what kind of lessons can be learned from how the governments, businesses, communities and individuals tackled the COVID-19 crisis.
- We now have the opportunity to build a more prosperous country, restore the economy, improve our society and the environment and roll out the pathway to a better and more resilient future.

Sarajevo 11-May-2020

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