

This brochure is a summarized version of the report "Capacity Development Needs and Priorities for NatureConservation in South-Eastern Europe", prepared in the framework of IUCN's project 'Towards Strengthened Conservation Planning in South-Eastern Europe'.

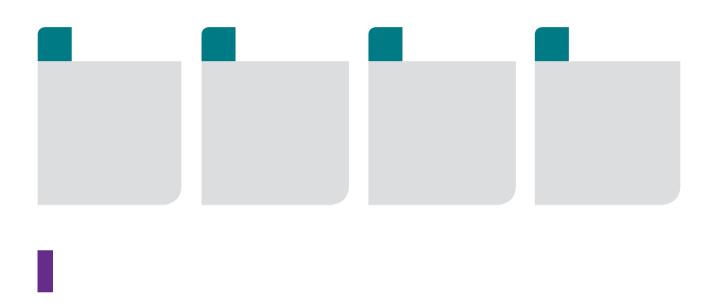
This project aims to support national conservation planning systems and implementation processes by assessing the state of nature conservation planning in each of the target countries, and by establishing a regional platform for natura E r f

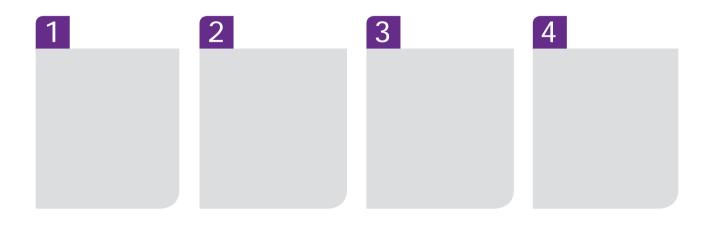
Priority topics for capacity development

Based on the assessments and analyses, the following topics should be prioritised for capacity development for nature conservation in the region.

National biodiversity assessments, including identification of priority species and areas for conservation

Beyond assessments, there is some demand for training in strategic planning for biodiversity conservation, and identification of species of conservation concern and measures to ensure their favourable status. The forthcoming IUCN initiative on Key Biodiversity Areas could engage region in a global initiative for prioritisation and to test in the European conÜ





Values of biodiversity and ecosystem services

The main issues identified relate to the valuation of ecosystem services, the awareness of these values and the consideration of these values in national accounting. This topic relates directly to Aichi Strategic Goal A and to EU Biodiversity Target 1.



Develop and organise a set of training and capacity development activities for senior and technical staff linked to the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) programme. TEEB presents an approach that can help decision-makers recognize, demonstrate and capture the values of ecosystem services & biodiversity.

Managing and using biodiversity information (monitoring and reporting)

This topic was widely identified as a priority. It relates to monitoring and demonstrating attainment of all the Aichi Strategic Goals and EU Targets. The need of the region is to identify systems that are effective, practical, affordable, and compatible with other systems.



Develop a programme with UNEP-WCMC to support the region in biodiversity data management.

2

Include in a study tour a visit to WCMC and to the UK National Biodiversity Network.

Mainstreaming of biodiversity and nature conservation into other sectors

This topic was highly ranked and relates to Aichi Strategic Goals A and B and to EU Biodiversity Targets 3 and 4. The main issue is to ensure that other sectors such as agriculture, forestry, land use planning, resource extraction address and integrate nature conservation needs and obligations. Due to the fact that it is rather broad topic, specific focus should be developed to have useful trainings.



Develop and deliver a regional training seminar on the main principles and practices of sectoral mainstreaming, using specific examples from the region and making use of the CBD learning resources.

2

Organise a regional training course for senior staff on Environmental Impact Assessments.

3

Include in a study tour a visit to a national nature conservation agency that has had success in sectoral mainstreaming.

4

Encourage and support national governments and environment ministries to engage in regional initiatives that promote green growth and sustainability.

Institutional organisation and effectiveness

Another important topic, due to the fact that the effectiveness of nature management organisations is frequently limited by institutional factors as well as by technical capacity gaps.



Provide support for EU candidate and potential candidate states in the approximation of EU environmental legislation and developing the required organisational capacities.

2

Support and disseminate the results of regional initiatives for institutional strengthening.

3

Engage with the Earth Skills Network to provide support and mentoring for modernisation of organisational planning and management practices.



Strengthening national and regional education, learning and qualification frameworks

Ensuring sustainable capacity development for the region requires development of permanent national or regional learning programmes based in established institutions. This topic addresses all Aichi Strategic Goals and EU Biodiversity Targets.



Engage in IUCN-WCPA led European initiatives for the professionalization of protected area management, biodiversity and nature conservation, registration of environmental occupations and development of occupational standards.

2

Seek resources for development of a regional highlevel curriculum for nature conservation and biodiversity management, which could be adapted and delivered by educational institutions in the various countries of the region.

The report highlights that capacity development should not just be considered as training; there are other methods of learning which can be equally effective and which are often much more sustainable. It suggests diversifed learning approaches – such as regional communities of practice on key elements of nature conservation planning, and systems for professional mentoring of conservation personnel. IUCN's project "Towards Strengthened Conservation Planning in South-Eastern Europe' will assist in implementing at least 4 workshops in the region, covering the most needed topics for training.

