

2016

The page features several decorative blue oval shapes of varying sizes and orientations, connected by thin blue lines. One large oval is at the top center, a smaller one is below it to the right, and another large one is at the bottom right. A light blue rectangular box is positioned on the left side, containing the report's title and subtitle.

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

**ON THE COMPATIBILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL
EFFECTS OF THE "INTERREG-IPA CBC BULGARIA-
SERBIA" FOR THE YEARS 2014-2020 UNDER THE
INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II)
WITH THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL (SEA) REPORT**

INTRODUCTION

The current Monitoring Report is prepared in accordance with:

SEA Report of the INTERREG - IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - Serbia

DIRECTIVE 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (referred to as the SEA Directive)

Relevant Bulgarian legislation:

- Environmental Protection Act
- Climate change mitigation Act
- Biological Diversity Act
- Protected Areas Act
- Water Act
- Soils Act
- Waste Management Act
- Tourism Act
- Bulgarian national rules on the terms and procedures for assessment of the compatibility of plans, programs, projects and investment proposals with the objectives and purposes of the preservation of the protected areas (last amended as of 30.11.2012)
- Environmental Assessment Statement ref. № 8-5/2014 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW) of the Republic of Bulgaria

Relevant Serbian legislation:

- Law on Air Protection
- Law on Waters
- Law for Environment Protection
- Energy Law
- Law on Energy Efficiency
- Law on Nature Protection
- Law for Environment Protection
- Law on Waste Management
- Law on Tourism
- Law on Heritage Protection

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The Programme was officially approved on 30th of July 2015 with EC Decision № C (2015) 5444.

During 2016 an amendment of the INTERREG - IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - Serbia (the Programme) was performed concerning the establishment of baseline and target values of qualitative programme result indicators and does not influence the envisaged Programme priorities and activities, respectively does not require new SEA report and new Environmental statement by the MoEW.

35 subsidy contracts under the First Call for proposals of the Programme were signed on 24th of November 2016, including 26 investment and 9 soft projects.

INFORMATION ON THE MEASURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PREVENTION, REDUCTION AND ELIMINATION AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE OF POTENTIAL NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FROM THE PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

According to item I “Measures and requirements for prevention, reduction and elimination as completely as possible of potential negative consequences from the Programme implementation” of the MOEW Environmental Statement, the following requirements shall be met:

1. Plans, programmes and projects, as well as investment proposals, subject of INTERREG-IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria-Serbia, which fall in the scope of the Bulgarian Environmental Protection Act or outside it, and under the provisions of Art. 31 of the Biological Diversity Act are a subject of compatibility assessment with the scope and purpose of the preservation of protected areas. The above interventions may be approved only after a positive decision/statement on the EIA/SEA/environmental compliance assessment, following the respective recommendations, as well as the conditions, requirements and measures set in the decision/statement;
2. The development of tourism should be in conformity with the recreation capacity of the territory and a proper waste water treatment and waste management are to be ensured.
3. Activities as "safari" hiking, "off-routes" tracking for monitoring of rare and endangered species” should not be included in the development of tourist packages under Priority Axis 1, since they lead to significant damages on the environment and in particular on Biodiversity .

Taking into consideration the above requirements the Managing Authority DG TCM has included all of them in the Guidelines for applicants (GfA) under the First Call for proposals, as follows:

- Every investment proposal envisaging construction works is required to present as an attachment to the application form (AF) a positive environmental impact assessment (EIA) required by the national legislation or a statement issued by the relevant body clearly stated that Environmental Impact Assessment is not necessary;
- All investment activities have to be in line with the relevant national legislation for the respective type of construction works (including those related to development of tourism);

- Activities as "safari" hiking, "off-routes" tracking for monitoring of rare and endangered species” are included in the lists of ineligible activities for all Priority axes (PA).

According to the provisions in GfA, in case of investment projects that envisage construction works, the applicants shall provide:

- **either** Positive Environmental Impact Assessment (positive opinion from the relevant body), required by the national legislation (B4.4)
- **or** Statement issued by the relevant body clearly stated that Environmental Impact Assessment is not necessary (notary certified for Bulgarian partners and certified by the responsible administrative body - for Serbian partners).

At application stage all 15 of the approved for financing projects that envisaged construction works provided the requested documents issued by the competent environmental bodies (according to the respective national legislation) showing that an EIA is not required since the planned activities will not affect directly natural habitats and protected areas, as well as there is no possibility of negative effect on the environment and human health.

The rest of the projects approved for financing do not envisage construction works and respectively EIA/statements from the competent environmental bodies are not required for the implementation of their activities.

During the assessment process the compatibility of the project proposals to the above requirements was duly checked by the assessors and only projects that met the above criteria were proposed and approved for financing.

After contracted, all approved projects under the first call performed a self-assessment on the expected environmental consequences of the envisaged project activities in regard to the six environmental issues (Air and climate; Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora; Water; Soil; Population and Human Health; Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape). For the purpose of the self-assessment the questionnaire in section 10.2 of the SEA Report was used and the results are compared to the expected consequences for respective Specific objective according to the SEA report.

The distribution of projects by Specific objectives (SO) under the Programme is as follows:

- SO 1.1 “TOURIST ATTRACTIVENESS: Supporting the development of competitive tourist attractions achieved through cooperation, thus contributing to the diversification of tourist product(s) in the cross-border region” – 10 projects;
- SO 1.2 “CROSS-BORDER TOURISTIC PRODUCT: Capturing economic benefits from development of natural and cultural heritage in the border area through creating common cross-border touristic destination(s)” – 1 project;
- SO 1.3 “PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE NETWORKING: Capitalising the effect of cultural, historical and natural heritage tourism on border communities through common actions” – 1 project;

- SO 2.1 “SKILLS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Supporting the development of attractive environment for advancement of young people in the border region achieved through cooperation” – 11 projects;
- SO 2.2 “PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE NETWORKING: Promote cooperation initiatives for and with young people, thus enhancing mobility of young people across borders” – 2 projects;
- SO 3.1 “JOINT RISK MANAGEMENT: To prevent and mitigate the consequences of natural and man-made cross-border disasters” – 8 projects
- SO 3.2 “3.2 NATURE PROTECTION: Promoting and enhancing the utilization of common natural resources, as well as stimulating nature protection in the programme area, through joint initiatives across the border” – 2 projects.

The table below presents a summarized information on the performed by the project beneficiaries self-assessment including where applicable any findings and measures undertaken for mitigation of the negative effects on the environment and human health.

INFORMATION ON THE CARRIED OUT THE SELF-ASSESSMENT SUMMARISED PER PRIORITY AXIS AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

| PA / SO | ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (for which the environmental consequences are appraised according to Directive 2001/42/EC) | Expected consequences according to the SEA | Number of projects with expected | | | | Comments / remarks / undertaken measures |
|----------------|--|--|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
| | | | Positive (+) Environmental consequences | Neutral (0) Environmental consequences | Negative (-) Environmental consequences | Both positive and negative (+/-) | |
| PA 1 SO 1.1 | Air and Climate | + | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 | It is expected the majority of projects to have rather neutral effect on the environmental issues concerning Air and Climate. Only two projects foresee measures that could indirectly positively influence air and climate conditions through planting of trees, which is expected to have positive impact on the environment and reducing air pollution. |
| | Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora | + | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | Some of the projects foresee activities encouraging responsible behavior of the public in regard to biodiversity, fauna and flora. The rest will have neutral effect. |
| | Water | + | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 | Almost all projects will have neutral effect on Water issues. |
| | Soil | + | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 | Almost all projects will have neutral effect on Soil related issues. |
| | Population and Human Health | + | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 | Almost all projects will have neutral effect on Population and Human Health issues. |
| | Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape | + | 7 | 3 | 0 | 0 | Most of the projects under SO 1.1 foresee activities which will have direct positive influence through measures for preservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage and landscape. |
| PA 1 SO 1.2 | Air and Climate | + | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The project financed under SO 1.2 is not expected to have any effect on that issue since it does not include any activities influencing air and climate issues. |
| | Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora | + | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The project financed under SO 1.2 is not expected to have any effect on that issue since it does not include any activities influencing biodiversity, fauna and flora. |
| | Water | + | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The project financed under SO 1.2 is not expected to have any effect on that issue since it does not include any activities influencing Water issues. |
| | Soil | + | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The project financed under SO 1.2 is not expected to have any effect on that issue since it does not include any activities influencing Soil issues. |
| | Population and Human Health | + | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The project financed under SO 1.2 is not expected to have any effect on that issue since it does not include any activities influencing population and human health. |
| | Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape | + | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The project financed under SO 1.2 includes activities that will have neutral effect on cultural/natural heritage and landscape |

| PA / SO | ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (for which the environmental consequences are appraised according to Directive 2001/42/EC) | Expected consequences according to the SEA | Number of projects with expected | | | | Comments / remarks / undertaken measures |
|----------------|--|--|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
| | | | Positive (+) Environmental consequences | Neutral (0) Environmental consequences | Negative (-) Environmental consequences | Both positive and negative (+/-) | |
| | | | | | | | issues. |
| PA 1 SO 1.3 | Air and Climate | +/- | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The project financed under SO 1.3 is not expected to have any effect on that issue since it does not include any activities addressing air and climate. |
| | Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora | +/- | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The project financed under SO 1.3 is not expected to have any effect on that issue since it does not include any activities influencing biodiversity, fauna and flora. |
| | Water | +/- | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The project financed under SO 1.3 is not expected to have any effect on that issue since it does not include any activities addressing Water resources. |
| | Soil | +/- | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The project financed under SO 1.3 is not expected to have any effect on that issue since it does not include any activities addressing quality of Soil. |
| | Population and Human Health | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The project financed under SO 1.3 is not expected to have any effect on that issue since it does not include any activities influencing population and human health. |
| | Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape | +/- | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The project financed under SO 1.3 includes activities that will have neutral effect on cultural/natural heritage and landscape issues. |
| PA 2 SO 2.1 | Air and Climate | +/- | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 | Specific objective 2.1 is focused on youth's skills and entrepreneurship. Therefore, it is expected the projects to have mainly neutral effect on environmental issues (including Air and Climate). |
| | Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora | +/- | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | Specific objective 2.1 is focused on youth's skills and entrepreneurship. Therefore, it is expected the projects to have mainly neutral effect on environmental issues (including biodiversity, fauna and flora). |
| | Water | +/- | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | Specific objective 2.1 is focused on youth's skills and entrepreneurship. Therefore, it is expected the projects to have mainly neutral effect on environmental issues (including water). |
| | Soil | +/- | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | Specific objective 2.1 is focused on youth's skills and entrepreneurship. Therefore, it is expected the projects to have neutral effect on environmental issues (including Soils). |
| | Population and Human Health | 0 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 | One project will positively influence the population and human health aiming to promote sport activities among young people and development of accessible public sport infrastructure which will lead directly to improving the health status of the population in the area. |

| PA / SO | ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (for which the environmental consequences are appraised according to Directive 2001/42/EC) | Expected consequences according to the SEA | Number of projects with expected | | | | Comments / remarks / undertaken measures |
|----------------|--|--|--|---|--|----------------------------------|---|
| | | | Positive (+) Environmental consequences | Neutral (0) Environmental consequences | Negative (-) Environmental consequences | Both positive and negative (+/-) | |
| | | | | | | | The rest of the projects are expected to have neutral effect on that environmental issue. |
| | Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape | +/- | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | Specific objective 2.1 is focused on youth's skills and entrepreneurship. Therefore, it is expected the projects to have neutral effect on environmental issues (including on cultural/natural heritage and landscape). |
| PA 2 SO 2.2 | Air and Climate | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | Both projects that are financed under SO 2.2 include activities related to establishment and development of youth networking initiatives (soft measures). Therefore the expected consequence to the six environmental issues is neutral. |
| | Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | It is expected both projects to have neutral effect on that issues since no activities addressing biodiversity, fauna and flora are foreseen. |
| | Water | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | It is expected both projects to have neutral effect on that issues since no activities addressing water resources are foreseen. |
| | Soil | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | It is expected both projects to have neutral effect on that issues since no activities addressing quality of soil are foreseen. |
| | Population and Human Health | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | It is expected both projects to have neutral effect on that issues since no activities addressing Population and Human Health are foreseen. |
| | Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | It is expected both projects to have neutral effect on that issues since no activities addressing Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape are foreseen. |
| PA 3 SO 3.1 | Air and Climate | + | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | All eight projects under SO 3.1 will have positive effects on air and climate issues. Joint risk management activities and those related to forest fire prevention will have a strong and direct positive effect on air quality in the broad areas. |
| | Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora | + | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | The implementation of the majority of projects will influence positively biodiversity, fauna and flora mainly through measures for reducing the risk of extinction of the river/forest fauna and flora. |
| | Water | + | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | Two out of eight projects will have a positive effect on water resources through implementation of measures for sewage treatment and prevention of water pollution. |
| | Soil | + | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | Two projects addressing waste management will have positive effect on soil preservation. |
| | Population and Human Health | + | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | Three projects focused on forest fire prevention will have positive effects on population and human health. |

| PA / SO | ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (for which the environmental consequences are appraised according to Directive 2001/42/EC) | Expected consequences according to the SEA | Number of projects with expected | | | | Comments / remarks / undertaken measures |
|----------------|--|--|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
| | | | Positive (+) Environmental consequences | Neutral (0) Environmental consequences | Negative (-) Environmental consequences | Both positive and negative (+/-) | |
| | Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape | + | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | The majority of projects will have no direct influence on cultural/natural heritage and landscape issues. |
| PA 3 SO 3.2 | Air and Climate | + | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Both projects under SO 3.2 will positively influence the air and climate conditions through implementation of waste management measures and measures for reducing the level of air pollution caused by harmful emissions. |
| | Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora | + | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Both projects will have positive effect on biodiversity, fauna and flora. They envisage measures for promotion of biodegradable waste management that will indirectly contribute to conservation of biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems. |
| | Water | + | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Both projects will have positive impact on soil by envisaging actions for decrease of the pollution of underground waters and Joint action plan for waste management. |
| | Soil | + | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The actions foreseen in both projects are expected to have positive effect on protecting/improving soil conditions. |
| | Population and Human Health | + | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Both projects will implement measures to prevent spreading of diseases and pollution thus having a positive effect on population and human health. |
| | Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape | + | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | One of the projects will have indirect positive effect on cultural/natural heritage and landscape by implementation of waste management measures. |

SUMMARY of the expected consequences on the six environmental issues based on the answers provided by the Lead partners in the Compatibility Check Sheets

| TOTAL | Air and climate | Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora | Water | Soil | Population and Human Health | Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape |
|-------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------|------|-----------------------------|---|
| + | 13 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 10 |
| - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 21 | 23 | 29 | 29 | 27 | 24 |
| +/- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

SUMMARY of the environmental answers from the submitted by Lead partners Compatibility Check Sheets:

| ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (for which the environmental consequences are appraised according to Directive 2001/42/EC) | Environmental questions / indicators | Answers / Comments |
|---|--|---|
| Air and climate | Will the projects have an effect on the reduction of air pollution? | The strongest positive effect on reduction of air pollution is expected to be achieved through the successful implementation of the projects activities under SO 3.1 and SO 3.2, related to environmental protection with focus on risk management, such as: forest fire prevention and management, reducing air pollution through lower level of landfilling (waste management), etc. The rest of the projects do not have any direct or have neutral influence on the reduction of air pollution. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the reduction of the GHG emissions? | It is expected projects under SO 3.1 and SO 3.2 to have a positive effect on the reduction of the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Those projects are focused on early detection and fast extinguishing of fires (i.e. prevention of quick spreading of GHG emissions, reuse of agriculture manure, proper waste management, etc.) The rest of the projects do not have any or have neutral influence on reduction of GHG emissions. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the support of environmentally friendly transports? | None of the projects approved for financing under the first Call envisage activities related to transport infrastructure, therefore no effect on the support of environmentally friendly transport is expected. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of forest fire fight management and prevention? | Projects under SO 3.1, in which activities related to forest fire prevention are envisaged, will have a strong and direct positive effect on the promotion of forest fire fight management and prevention. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of responsible behaviour of the public by involving the citizens into fighting climate change? | Capacity building workshops and events foreseen within projects under SO 3.1 and SO 3.2 will contribute for changing public behavior to sustainable energy use and climate change issues. |
| Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora | Will the projects have an effect on the preservation of biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems and their services? | The majority of projects do not foresee activities related to preservation of biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems and respectively will not have any effect on that. Only few of them under SO 3.1 and SO 3.2 are expected to have some positive long-term effect on preservation of the existing ecosystems in the targeted area. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the decrease in loss of biodiversity? | Some projects under SO 3.1 will have indirect effect on the preservation of biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems through more effective fire prevention and rescue measures in case of floods and landslides. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of responsible behaviour of the public by involving the citizens in protecting biodiversity and natural areas? | Communication and visibility activities, as well as public debates, round tables and public awareness campaigns foreseen within the projects under SO 3.1 will contribute for changing public behavior to protecting biodiversity and natural areas. |

| ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (for which the environmental consequences are appraised according to Directive 2001/42/EC) | Environmental questions / indicators | Answers / Comments |
|--|--|---|
| | Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of tourism that would ensure high degree of nature conservation? | None of the projects envisage activities related to high degree of nature conservation through tourism promotion and respectively will not have any direct effect on that issue. |
| Water | Will the projects have an effect on the improvement of ecological and chemical status of water bodies? | The strongest positive effect on ecological and chemical status of water bodies is expected in projects under SO 3.1, through measures for decrease the pollution of underground waters, elaboration of action plan for better waste management, improvement of sewage treatment, etc. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of sustainable use of water resources? | Only projects under SO 3.1 will have a long-term effect on the promotion of sustainable use of water resources by implementation of joint actions for floods prevention and awareness-raising campaigns. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of sustainable use of sustainable tourism towards water resources preservation? | None of projects envisage activities with effect on the promotion of sustainable tourism addressing water resources. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of responsible behaviour of the public by involving the citizens into sustainable water use? | None of projects envisage activities with direct effect on the water resources preservation through awareness-raising campaigns. |
| Soil | Will the projects have an effect on the preservation of the soil functionality | Only projects under SO 3.1 and SO 3.2 are expected to limit the process of soil erosion and to preserve soil functionality through reduction of forest fires.. In addition, one project under SO 3.2 addressing landfilling issues will lead to enrichment of soils physical and chemical content and microorganisms. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of sustainable use of soil resource | Only one project under SO 3.2 focused on composting of biodegradable waste will have direct impact on this issue. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of sustainable tourism towards land preservation? | None of projects envisage activities addressing sustainable tourism towards land preservation and thus are not expected to show any effect on that. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of responsible behaviour of the public by increasing education and awareness on soil protection? | Concrete actions envisaged in projects under SO 3.1 and SO 3.2 stimulating responsible public behavior on risk management and environmental protection by awareness raising and training initiatives will indirectly promote soil protection. |
| Population and Human Health | Will the project have an effect on the reduction of diseases caused by natural hazards? | Taking into account that floods and fires cause material damages and are a prerequisite for spreading of diseases, all projects under SO 3.1 (addressing flood, fires and disasters protection measures) have a positive indirect influence on Human health. |
| | Will the project have an effect on the promotion of controls of environmental related health risks and hazards? | None of projects envisage activities addressing promotion of controls of environmental related health risks and hazards and thus are not expected to show any effect on that. |

| ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (for which the environmental consequences are appraised according to Directive 2001/42/EC) | Environmental questions / indicators | Answers / Comments |
|---|---|---|
| | Will the project have an effect on the promotion of risk prevention and management of natural and man-made disasters? | All projects under SO 3.1 and 3.2 addressing risk prevention and management of natural and man-made disasters and nature protection will have positive effect on these issues. The majority of projects envisage information campaigns for responsible behavior and adequate reactions of professionals and public bodies in cases of fires and floods. |
| | Will the project have an effect on the promotion of sustainable waste management to protect human health? | One project under SO 3.2 removing existing dumpsites will have a direct effect on with the improving the overall level of environmental conditions and will help protecting citizens' health. |
| | Will the project have an effect on the promotion of environmentally-responsible behavior of the public by involving the citizens into the solution of environmental problems? | All projects under SO 3.1 and SO 3.2 include awareness raising activities aiming at involvement of citizens into initiatives addressing different environmental related issues. |
| Cultural/Natural Heritage and Landscape | Will the projects have an effect on the protection and rehabilitation of cultural and natural heritage? | All projects under SO 1.1 and SO 1.3 include activities directly addressing natural and cultural heritage protection including responsible public behavior and thus they will have positive effect on those issues. In addition some projects under SO 3.1 and SO 3.2 include activities indirectly addressing natural heritage protection. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of sustainable management and planning of cultural and natural landscape? | The majority of projects do not include activities directly related to promotion of sustainable management and planning of cultural and natural landscape and are expected to have neutral effect on that. Seven projects under SO 1.1 foresee activities that will positively influence cultural landscape. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of sustainable use of natural resources towards sustainable tourism? | Most of the projects under PA 1 are expected to increase the capacity of local communities for sustainable tourism development through promotion initiatives for protection of natural and cultural resources. |
| | Will the projects have an effect on the promotion of responsible behaviour of the public by increasing education and awareness on heritage and landscape preservation and protection? | The information campaigns foreseen to be undertaken by all projects under PA1 will raise awareness of the cultural heritage for tourism development and in that respect will contribute to increasing the public awareness on heritage and landscape preservation and protection. |

INFORMATION ON THE MEASURES CONCERNING MONITORING AND CONTROL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The table below gives summarised information on the level of achievement of the SEA indicators under the Programme as presented in section 10.1 of the SEA Report. Taking into consideration the fact that the subsidy contracts were signed in October 2016 and no implementation of activities has started by the end of the year, the annual achievement of the SEA indicators for 2016 is “0”.

| ID | Indicator (name of indicator) | Measurement unit | Target value (2023) | Annual Value | | | | | | | Source of data | | |
|----------|---|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------|------|------|
| | | | | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | | 2023 | |
| OI 1.1.1 | Total number of reconstructed/restored cultural and historical touristic objects in the eligible border area | Number | 15 | 0 | | | | | | | | | AIRs |
| OI 1.1.2 | Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractiveness | Number | 15 | 0 | | | | | | | | | AIRs |
| OI 2.1.1 | Total number of supported youth-related small-scale infrastructure, and training and information facilities | Number | 15 | 0 | | | | | | | | | AIRs |
| OI 3.1.1 | Total number of joint activities aimed at establishing joint early warning and disaster management systems | Number | 6 | 0 | | | | | | | | | AIRs |
| OI 3.1.2 | Purchased specialised equipment related to disaster management | Number | 10 | 0 | | | | | | | | | AIRs |
| OI 3.1.3 | Total number of supported interventions / investments related to risk prevention | Number | 5 | 0 | | | | | | | | | AIRs |
| OI 3.1.4 | Total number of people participated in risk prevention and management training activities | Number | 600 | 0 | | | | | | | | | AIRs |
| OI 3.1.5 | Population benefiting from flood protection measures | Persons | 580 000 | 0 | | | | | | | | | AIRs |
| OI 3.1.6 | Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures | Persons | 520 000 | 0 | | | | | | | | | AIRs |
| OI 3.2.1 | Protected areas/Natura 2000 sites in the border region with EU conform management plans | Number | 5 | 0 | | | | | | | | | AIRs |
| OI 3.2.2 | Total number of joint interventions, addressing the preservation and restoration of CBC ecosystems, as well as preservation and improvement of the quality of soils, air and water. | Number | 12 | 0 | | | | | | | | | AIRs |
| OI 3.2.3 | Education and awareness raising joint initiatives, in the field of preservation and protection of natural heritage, biodiversity and landscape | Number | 15 | 0 | | | | | | | | | AIRs |
| OI 3.2.4 | Capacity building initiatives, trainings, exchange of experience and know-how in the field of sustainable use of natural resources | Number | 15 | 0 | | | | | | | | | AIRs |

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (IF ANY)

From the result of the self-assessment carried out by beneficiaries, it could be summarized that *none of the projects will have negative effect on any of the six environmental issues*. 21 out of the 35 contracted projects envisage construction works and most of the beneficiaries' answers show that their projects will have neutral environmental consequences.

The impact on the different environmental issues is expected to be achieved mainly through measures as follows:

- Most favourable **air and climate** conditions are foreseen to be obtained through the envisaged under SO 3.1 “JOINT RISK MANAGEMENT: To prevent and mitigate the consequences of natural and man-made cross-border disaster” activities with focus on: forest fire prevention and risk management, reduction of air pollution (GHG emissions); sustainable use of energy resources and promotion of responsible behavior of the public. Those projects will contribute to increasing of public knowledge about air pollution and mitigation climate changes. In addition they will stimulate the creation of responsible behavior of the general public towards nature protection. The projects under the rest of the Specific objectives will have neutral influence on the air and climate conditions.
- The expected positive effects on **population and human health** are also logically linked mainly to the expected results from the implementation of the projects under SO 3.1 and SO 3.2, while the rest of the projects show neutral influence on that. Taking into account that floods, fires and illegal dumpsites are a prerequisite for spreading of diseases, Projects under PA 3 will have a positive indirect influence on human health. They will stimulate the creation of responsible behavior of the general public towards controls of environmental and man-made related health risks and hazards.
- As regards **Water** issues, all projects except those under SO 3.1 and SO 3.2 will have a neutral or no effect on the ecological and chemical status of water bodies and resources. The implementation of four projects under PA 3 (2 under SO 3.1 and 2 under SO 3.2) will ensure a strong positive influence on the water quality by reducing the pollution of water caused by floods and landfilling. In addition the envisaged promotional activities indirectly influence responsible public behavior on sustainable use of water resources..
- In reference to the influence of the projects on **Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora**, most of the projects activities will have neutral effect as they do not include direct interventions in nature protected sites since they foresee mainly promotional and capacity building measures such as training courses for conservation and preservation of natural heritage. The expectations are that activities under PA 3 indirectly affect the preservation of biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems through fire and rescue measures, as well as waste management related activities.
- Regarding **Soil issues**, most of the projects will have neutral effect on the preservation of the soil resources. One project under SO 3.2 will include measures for better waste management in the cross-border region

which are expected to have a positive effect on the soil functionality by effective control on the illegal dumpsites.

- **Cultural/Natural heritage and landscape** will be positively influenced through the implementation of investment activities under PA 2 addressing conservation and restoration of cultural and natural sites. In addition the planned soft measures promoting cultural and natural heritage (including training courses, cultural fairs/events, informational materials, etc.) will inform the general public on the possible ways for preservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

Following the recommendations given in the Environmental statement, no activities such as "safari" hiking, "off-routes" tracking for monitoring of rare and endangered species" are envisaged in the contacted projects. In addition the proposed investments are in line with the relevant national legislation for the respective type of construction works (including development of tourism; nature and cultural protection and restoration; waste management, etc.) and a proper waste water treatment.

As a general conclusion it could be summarised that projects under PA 3 are those expected to have positive effect on 5 of the environmental issues with the exception of Cultural/Natural heritage and landscape where the strongest positive effect is expected to be obtained by the implementation of the projects under PA 1. Projects that include joint risk management and nature protection measures show most significant positive influence on all six environmental issues and related questions.

All recommendations laid down in the Environmental Statement, issued by the Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria were strictly followed on every stage of the application, evaluation and selection of projects for funding under INTERREG-IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria -Serbia.

Given the above, it can be concluded that at the present moment no corrective measures have to be foreseen since all projects are in conformity with the SEA report expectations and none of them will have a negative effect on any of the six environmental issues.

ОБЩИ ИЗВОДИ И ПРЕПОРЪКИ (АКО ИМА ТАКИВА)

Според резултатите от самооценката, проведена от бенефициерите, може да се обобщи, че няма проекти, които да повлияят негативно върху който и да е от шестте въпроса за околната среда. 21 от 35 договорени проекти предвиждат строителни дейности и повечето от отговорите на бенефициерите сочат, че проектите им ще имат неутрално въздействие върху околната среда.

Въздействието върху отделните аспекти отнасящи се до околната среда се очаква да се изпълнят предимно чрез мерки, както следва:

- Повечето благоприятни условия за **въздуха и климата** се предвижда да бъдат постигнати чрез действия по СЦ 3.1 “СЪВМЕСТНО УПРАВЛЕНИЕ НА РИСКА: Предотвратяване и смекчаване на последиците от природни и причинени от човека трансгранични бедствия“ с насоченост към: предотвратяване на горски пожари и управление на риска, намаляване на замърсяването на въздуха (емисии на парникови газове); устойчиво управление на енергийни ресурси и поощряване на отговорното поведение на обществото. Тези проекти ще спомогнат за повишаване на осведомеността на хората относно замърсяването на въздуха и смекчаване на климатичните промени. В допълнение те ще стимулират осъществяването на отговорното отношение на широката общественост спрямо защита на природата. Проектите по останалите специфични цели ще имат неутрално въздействие спрямо условията на въздуха и климата.

- Очакваното позитивно въздействие спрямо **населението и човешкото здраве** също за логически свързано предимно чрез очакваните резултати от осъществяването на проектите по СЦ 3.1 и СЦ 3.2, докато по останалите проекти се очакват неутрални последици. Вземайки предвид факта, че наводненията, пожарите и незаконните сметища са предпоставки за разпространяване на болести, проектите по ПО 3 ще имат непряко позитивно въздействие върху човешкото здраве. Те ще насърчат осъществяването на отговорното отношение на широката общественост спрямо управлението на природни и причинени от човека заплахи за здравето и бедствия.

- Относно въпроса за **водите**, всички проекти освен тези по СЦ 3.1 и 3.2 ще имат неутрален или никакъв ефект по екологичните условия и химичния състав на водните обекти и ресурси. Изпълнението на четири проекта по ПО 3 (два по СЦ 3.1 и два по СЦ 3.2) ще осигурят силно позитивно въздействие спрямо качеството на водата чрез намаляване на замърсяването, причинено и наводнения и сметища. В допълнение, предвидените дейности ще имат непряко въздействие към отговорното отношение на обществеността спрямо устойчивото потребление на водни ресурси.

- Във връзка с въздействието на проектите по **Биоразнообразие, фауна и флора**, повечето от дейностите по проектите ще имат неутрален ефект, тъй като не се предвиждат дейности в защитени територии, а предимно такива с цел осведоменост и мерки за изграждане на капацитет, напр. обучителни курсове за опазване на природното наследство. Очакванията са, че дейности по ПО 3 ще въздействат непряко върху опазването на биоразнообразието, хабитатите и екосистемите чрез спасителни мерки и мерки при пожари, както и дейности по управление на отпадъците.

- Относно почвите, повечето проекти ще имат неутрален ефект по опазване на **почвените ресурси**. Един проект по СЦ 3.2 ще включи мерки за по-добро управление на отпадъците в трансграничния регион, които се очаква да имат позитивно въздействие на функционалността на почвите чрез ефективен контрол на незаконните сметища.

- Върху **културното / природното наследство и ландшафта** ще има позитивно въздействие чрез изпълнението на инвестиционните дейности по ПО 2, отнасящ се до опазването и възстановяването на културни и природни обекти. В допълнение планираните мерки, подпомагащи културно и природно наследство (вкл. обучения, курсове, културни събития, информационни материали и др.) ще информират обществеността за възможните начини за опазване и защита на културното и природно наследство.

Според препоръките предоставени в становището за Околна среда, дейности като „сафари” туризъм, „оф-роуд” трекинг за наблюдаване на редки и застрашени видове не са предвидени в договорените проекти. В допълнение, предложените инвестиции са в съответствие с националното законодателство за съответните видове строителни работи (вкл. тези, свързани с развитието на туризма, консервация на културно и природно наследство, управление на отпадъците и др.)

В заключение, може да се обобщи, че проектите по ПО 3 са тези, по които се очаква да има положително въздействие върху 5 аспекта по околната среда с изключение на Културно / Природно наследство и ландшафт, където най-силно въздействие се очаква да има изпълнението на проектите по ПО 1. Проектите, включващи съвместно управление на риска и защита на природата, показват най-значително позитивно въздействие върху шестте аспекта за околната среда и въпросите свързани с нея.

Всички препоръки, упоменати в становището по екологична оценка и изготвени от Министерството на околната среда и водите на Република България, са стриктно спазени във всеки етап на кандидатстване, оценка и подбор на проектите, предложени за финансиране по „Програма за трансгранично сътрудничество Interreg — ИПП България — Сърбия 2014 — 2020 г.“.

Като се има предвид гореизложеното, може да се заключи, че към настоящия момент не е необходимо предприемане на корективни мерки, тъй като всички проекти, предложени за финансиране по първата Покана, са в съответствие с очакванията по отчета за ЕО и нито един от тях няма да окаже негативен ефект върху околната среда и поставените шест екологични аспекта.