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UNDERSTANDING AND PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY IN SERBIA

This presentation explores the significance of biodiversity in Serbia, examines current challenges, and highlights steps towards a sustainable future.



INTRODUCTION TO BIODIVERSITY IN SERBIA

Definition

Biodiversity encompasses the variety of life on Earth – plants, animals, microorganisms, and their habitats.

Serbia's Rich Biodiversity

- Over 3,500 plant species.
- 43% of the territory covered by natural habitats.
- Diverse ecosystems: mountains, rivers, wetlands, and forests.



WHY IS BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANT?

Ecological Role

Balances ecosystems, supports processes like pollination, soil fertility, and water purification.

Economic Value

Essential for agriculture, forestry, and tourism.

Cultural and Inspirational Value

Inspires art, traditions, and spirituality.

Global Impact

Aids in combating climate change and preserving ecosystems.



STATE OF BIODIVERSITY IN SERBIA

Threatened Habitats

Serbia is a country with rich biodiversity, but unfortunately, some ecosystems are under threat. Particularly endangered are the wetland areas located in Vojvodina. These areas are of great importance for many plant and animal species, but are under pressure from excessive deforestation.

The forests in Serbia are also suffering from over-exploitation. This problem affects many species that live in forest ecosystems. Habitat loss and environmental degradation directly impact the biodiversity in Serbia.

Protecting and preserving these endangered areas is crucial for maintaining biodiversity in Serbia. It is necessary to take measures to conserve the wetlands and forests, in order to prevent further habitat loss and protect endangered species.

Endangered Species

Serbia is home to many unique and fascinating animal species, such as the griffon vulture and the Balkan lynx. These endangered species are just a part of the rich biodiversity that characterizes this country.

In addition to these iconic animals, Serbia also has a large number of endemic plant species that can be found only in this region. This indicates the exceptional biological diversity and the importance of Serbia for nature conservation.

However, these precious ecosystems and species are facing numerous challenges, such as habitat destruction, climate change, and pollution. Protecting and preserving biodiversity in Serbia is emerging as one of the key priorities in the country's sustainable development.

Key Threats

One of the main threats to biodiversity in Serbia is habitat loss caused by urbanization and agricultural expansion. The growth of cities and infrastructure destroys natural habitats, while intensive agriculture reduces species diversity.

Additionally, air, water, and soil pollution also endanger many sensitive species. Climate change further exacerbates the situation by causing shifts in habitats and species movements.

These issues require a comprehensive and coordinated approach to biodiversity conservation in Serbia. More effective legislation, better protection of sensitive areas, and education and citizen involvement in nature conservation are essential.



LEGAL PROTECTION

1 International Commitments

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), CITES for endangered species.

2 National Frameworks

Nature Protection Act, protected areas (e.g., Tara, Kopaonik).





SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION EXAMPLES



Reintroduction Projects

Griffon vulture in Uvac Canyon.



Wetland Protection

Zasavica Nature Reserve.



Community Initiatives

Planting native trees in degraded areas.





Reintroduction Projects

One of the most impressive species inhabiting Serbia's protected areas is the griffon vulture. These large birds of prey nest in steep canyons like Uvac, where they can survey their territory from great heights.

Vultures play a crucial role in the ecosystem by cleaning the environment of animal carcasses. Their presence is a sign of a healthy and balanced natural environment. However, this species has faced threats in the past due to hunting and poisoning, making ongoing conservation efforts essential.

The conservation of vultures and other endangered species, such as bears, wolves, and lynxes, requires comprehensive measures to protect their habitats. Only through the joint efforts of all stakeholders can we ensure the future of these magnificent and unique species, which are symbols of Serbia's wild nature.





Wetland Protection

Zasavica Nature Reserve represents one of Serbia's most important ecological treasures. Located in the northwestern part of Serbia, this special nature reserve is a critical habitat for numerous rare and endangered species. The reserve spans over 1,825 hectares and is characterized by extensive wetland ecosystems, including marshes, meadows, and flowing water habitats.

Home to over 230 bird species, including the critically endangered white stork and various waterfowl, Zasavica plays a crucial role in regional biodiversity conservation. The reserve also protects unique plant species and serves as a vital migration corridor for many animals. Its preservation demonstrates Serbia's commitment to maintaining ecological balance and protecting vulnerable natural environments.



Community Initiatives

Planting native trees in degraded areas is an important measure to restore biodiversity in Serbia. By planting species adapted to the local conditions, natural habitats and ecosystems can be rebuilt.

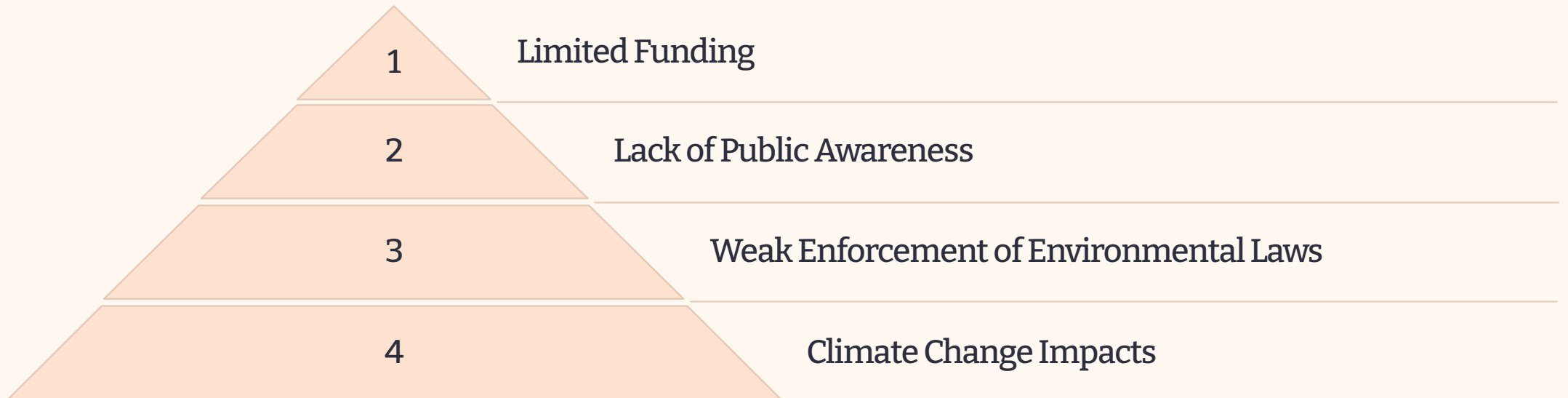
Degraded areas are often the result of human activities such as deforestation, overgrazing, or industrialization. By planting native trees, these areas can be renaturalized and restored to a more natural state.

The use of native plants is crucial, as they are adapted to the local conditions and can thrive better. They also provide habitat and food for a variety of animals and plants, contributing to the restoration of biodiversity.

Such reforestation projects are important building blocks of a comprehensive nature conservation strategy in Serbia. They can be implemented in collaboration with communities, conservation organizations, and engaged citizens to promote the preservation of biological diversity.



CHALLENGES IN CONSERVATION





RAISING AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

1

Biodiversity as part of school curricula.

2

Workshops and public campaigns.

3

Collaboration with communities to promote sustainable practices.





ROLE OF CITIZENS

1

Active Participation

Tree planting, river clean-ups.

2

Support Local Sustainability

Buy eco-friendly products.

3

Ecotourism

Visit protected areas responsibly.



INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

1

Technology in Conservation

The use of drones and digital mapping offers new, innovative ways to better understand and monitor biodiversity in Serbia.

Through drone imagery, researchers can gather detailed data on land cover, habitat structures, and the presence of animal and plant species. These high-resolution aerial images allow them to capture even hard-to-reach areas and observe changes over time.

Digital mapping tools also enable the collected information to be recorded and analyzed in geographic information systems. This allows for the identification of relationships and trends in biodiversity development, which can then inform more targeted conservation measures.

The use of modern technologies is therefore an important building block in gaining a comprehensive understanding of biodiversity in Serbia and developing effective strategies for its preservation.



INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

2

Citizen Science

Engaging the community in data collection is an important aspect to comprehensively understand and protect biodiversity in Serbia.

Local citizens, conservation groups, and other stakeholders can contribute valuable observations and information that would otherwise be difficult to collect. Their direct involvement in mapping and monitoring activities also fosters understanding and appreciation for the native flora and fauna.

Additionally, the data collected from the community can provide important supplements to scientific insights. This allows trends and changes in biodiversity to be better tracked, and suitable conservation measures to be derived.

The active involvement of the population is therefore a critical building block to sustainably preserve and promote biodiversity in Serbia.





ENGAGING YOUTH

1

Eco-camps, student-led projects.

2

Scholarships for biodiversity studies.



REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION





STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE

- 1 Increase Conservation Funding
- 2 Expand Protected Areas
- 3 Promote Inclusive Biodiversity Education
- 4 Support Sustainable Development Initiatives





CONCLUSION

Preserving biodiversity is not only an ecological necessity but also an investment in health, economy, and community well-being. Everyone plays a role, and education, collaboration, and action are key.





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THANK YOU

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Join Our Efforts: Be part of Serbia's biodiversity conservation movement!

