



Communication on Engagement (CoE)

Period covered by CoE: February 2021 – December 2023

Sarajevo, December 2023



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1 Statement of Continued Support by the President

Sarajevo, 31st of December 2023

Dear stakeholders,

Forestry and Environmental Action (FEA) is delighted to reaffirm its steadfast commitment to upholding the Principles of the United Nations Global Compact, particularly in the domains of labor standards, environmental stewardship, and anti-corruption measures. Through this declaration, we underscore our unwavering dedication to advancing these principles within our sphere of influence, and we pledge to articulate this commitment transparently to our stakeholders and the wider public.

This marks our fourth Communication on Engagement (CoE), wherein we provide a comprehensive overview of the initiatives and actions undertaken by FEA since our previous report to the United Nations Global Compact and its guiding Principles.

We are fully committed to disseminating this information to our stakeholders through primary communication channels.

Kind regards,



Ajla Dorfer

President

2 Getting to know FEA



FEA stands as a beacon of hope and action in the environmental sector. For over 15 years, our nonprofit organization has advocated for environmental preservation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable forestry, governance, and social inclusion. Our journey intertwines these critical elements to foster responsible natural resource management (NRM) and carve a path toward a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Core Operations of FEA:

- **Transition to Governance and Enhanced Democracy:** We are pioneering a shift from traditional governmental methods to governance models that uplift enhanced democracy. This approach is particularly evident in our management of natural resources and protected areas, ensuring that every voice is heard and every action counts.
- **Responsible Natural Resource Management:** Our emphasis on responsible stewardship of forests and land underscores our commitment to sustainability, environmentally sound practices, and rural development, ensuring a harmonious relationship between nature and human activity.



- **Support for UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Our initiatives are closely aligned with the UN SDGs. Each project we undertake is a step towards achieving these global objectives, reflecting our commitment to a better world.
- **Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements:** We actively engage in international efforts like the UNCCD, UNCBD, and UNFCCC, contributing to a collective global response to environmental challenges.
- **Empowerment:** Central to our ethos is the empowerment of women, youth, and rural communities. By equipping them with knowledge and tools, we enable their active participation in environmental preservation and sustainable development.

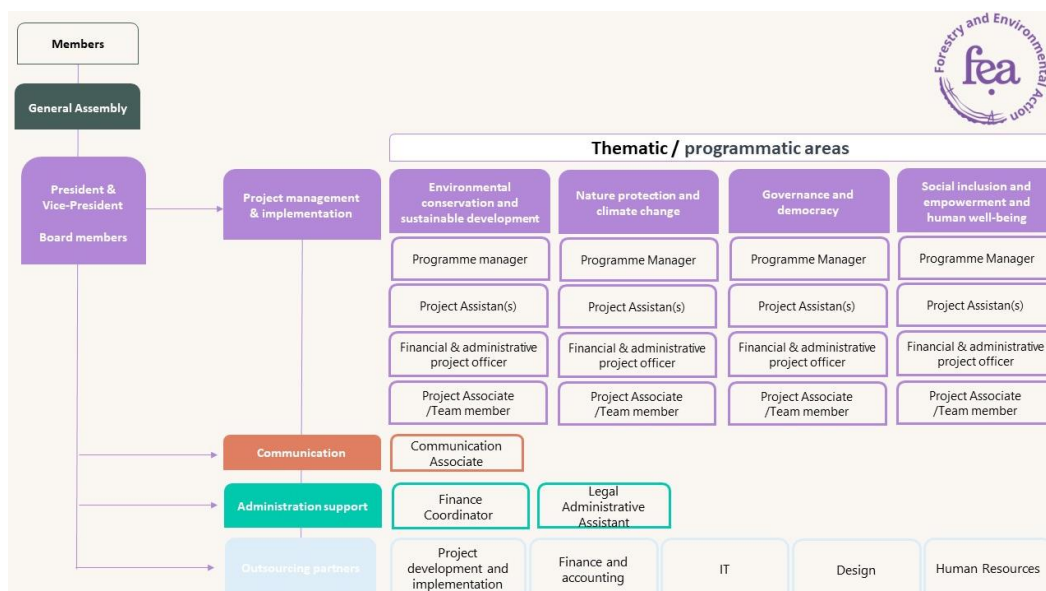
FEA's Multifaceted Approach:

- **Project Design and Management:** Our expertise in project design and management ensures impactful and efficient implementation at national and regional levels.
- **Technical Expertise and Research:** We provide critical technical insights and conduct both desk and field research, shaping policies and decision-making processes.
- **Advocacy and Policy Influence:** We influence key decision-makers and policies through Advocacy Action Plans and policy dialogue.
- **Stakeholder Engagement and Public Awareness:** Our comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plans and public awareness campaigns promote inclusivity, awareness, and sustainable practices.
- **Capacity Building and Information Technology:** We strengthen capacities within various sectors and harness IT solutions to further our environmental initiatives.
- **Environmental Education:** Our non-formal environmental education programs and forest pedagogy practices deepen the understanding of environmental issues.

- **Events, Networking, and Additional Activities:** We organize a plethora of events and actively engage in networking, further bolstered by our efforts in publishing, fundraising, marketing, and social media.

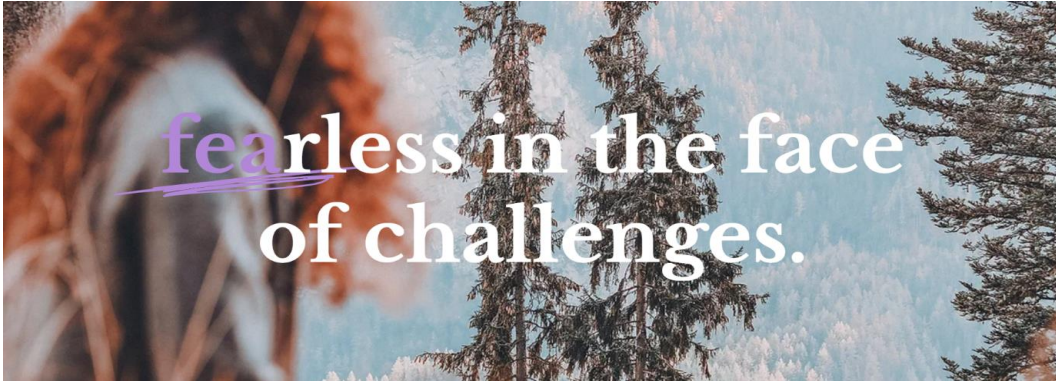
Our Team's Spirit:

The heart of FEA is its people - a cadre of highly educated, predominantly female professionals, driven by a passion for transformative change. Our organizational structure is streamlined into four thematic areas, each led by a dedicated program manager and supported by a team of adept technical and administrative professionals:



As we continue to tackle environmental challenges and advocate for just, sustainable, and inclusive practices, FEA stands unwavering in its mission to make a lasting, positive impact on our planet and its inhabitants.

As we forge ahead, "FEArless in the time of challenges" continues to be our guiding light, inspiring us to push boundaries, rethink norms, and make tangible impacts for a healthier planet.



3 Achievements: Summary of Activities 2021-2023

FEA has demonstrated its commitment to addressing critical global challenges by strategically aligning its endeavors with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

EACH PROJECT WE UNDERTAKE IS A STEP TOWARDS ACHIEVING THESE GLOBAL OBJECTIVES, REFLECTING OUR COMMITMENT TO A BETTER WORLD.



SDG 1 No Poverty:

Under the initiative "Empowering Communities through Democratic Management of Natural Resources" (Phase I and II) FEA was committed to enhancing the capabilities of the Private Forest Owners Association (PFOA). This endeavor aimed to empower private forest owners (PFOs) in discovering responsible and innovative approaches to harness their forest resources, ultimately elevating their livelihoods and income levels. Furthermore, FEA continued to provide support to PFOA through a series of educational programs and capacity building workshops, enabling them to access the latest knowledge and practices in forest resource management and sustainable development.

SDG 4 Quality Education:

Within its various projects, FEA has taken on the role of educating diverse target groups, with a particular focus on vulnerable segments of society. These educational efforts span across a range of subjects encompassing marketing, economics, market access, entrepreneurship, and more. By prioritizing the education of young



individuals and women, FEA is actively contributing to the promotion of quality education, thereby fostering social and economic development within these marginalized groups. Our non-formal environmental education programs and forest pedagogy practices deepen the understanding of environmental issues especially with teachers and children of preschool and school age.

SDG 5 Gender Equality:

FEA has developed a comprehensive internal gender mainstreaming policy to guide the integration of gender considerations in the planning, execution, and monitoring of all project activities. FEA's workforce predominantly comprises women, thus fostering heightened awareness and commitment to gender equality. As part of its dedication to advancing gender equality within the forestry sector, FEA participated in the Fem4forest project, which spanned 14 countries. This initiative aimed to empower women in the forestry sector, seeking to redress gender imbalances and enhance women's participation and leadership in the field. Building on the success of Fem4forest, FEA is now poised to continue its mission by focusing on the education and development of young women in the forestry sector through Fem2forest Project. This project aims to create innovative career pathways, enhance gender perspectives in forestry education, and establish conditions for increased women participation in the forestry sector. This strategic approach aligns with FEA's ongoing commitment to gender mainstreaming, ensuring that gender considerations are systematically integrated into all project activities and in sectors where FEA operates.

SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy:

Under the Project Ecotopia - Sustainable Community Pionirska Dolina, FEA, in collaboration with the local community, successfully raised awareness and educated residents about solar energy production. This initiative promoted sustainability, reshaped cultural

norms, and fostered community cooperation. The project also encouraged the use of the new infrastructure for charging electric bicycles and scooters during the spring and summer, reducing environmental pollution, and promoting renewable energy, aligning with SDG 7.

SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure:

As part of World Bank support, FEA collaborated with Enova d.o.o. Sarajevo to conduct the study titled "Biomass for Energy in Bosnia and Herzegovina." The primary aim was to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in making informed decisions regarding the retirement of existing coal-fired power plants, potential repurposing options, coal mine closures, and the possibility of utilizing mining areas for cultivating energy crops, among other considerations. The study had several key objectives, including: (i) Assessing Biomass Resources: Evaluating and reviewing biomass resource assessments, with a focus on wood and agricultural residues, energy crops, and municipal solid waste (MSW); (ii) Developing a Biomass Market: Facilitating the development of a robust biomass market in the country; (iii) Identifying Energy Crop Potential: Identifying the potential scale and suitable locations for energy crop cultivation; (IV) Creating a Roadmap: Constructing a comprehensive roadmap for the development and utilization of biomass resources. This collaborative effort aimed to promote sustainable practices, innovation, and infrastructure development in line with SDG 9.

SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities:

Recognizing the paramount importance of community involvement in achieving long-term sustainability, FEA has developed robust internal capabilities to facilitate stakeholder consultations. This approach empowers specific groups in decision-making processes related to policies and individual projects. One notable project, "Green Roofs of Sarajevo – Sustainable Space During Crisis Periods,"



advocated the implementation of rooftop greenery on residential buildings. This concept not only enhances the well-being of citizens but also contributes to environmental preservation and urban climate adaptation. To further emphasize the commitment to sustainability in urban environments, FEA implemented a project involving the creation of “smog eating” murals using photocatalytic paints in the City of Tuzla. Tuzla has been one of the most polluted cities in Europe for years, and this project aimed not only to raise public awareness about air pollution but also served as an excellent example of best practices in how cities can transform into sustainable models. This initiative highlights FEA's strategic engagement in improving the quality of life in urban areas and contributing to the achievement of SDG 11. FEA has organized a series of reforestation actions for children, youth, and even the private sector as a form of social responsibility and has greened both the Hum Forest Park and the Betanija City Park in Sarajevo, recognizing the importance of reintroducing nature into cities in terms of climate change resilience.

SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production:

The Knowledge to Eco-Property Project by FEA focused on its contribution to responsible consumption and production. It aimed to educate children aged 7–12 on sustainability principles and their daily environmental impact/ecological footprint. Through dynamic and interactive methods, the project created awareness about responsible consumption and production. Additionally, in the Greener Pionirska Dolina Project, FEA collaborated with the local community in Pionirska Dolina, Sarajevo's Municipality Centar. Together, they promoted composting from organic waste, waste reduction, and community cooperation, effectively advanced the principles of responsible consumption and production. This initiative resulted in positive changes in community behavior, emphasizing waste reduction and reuse, which aligned with the objectives of SDG 12.

SDG 13 Climate Action:

As mentioned, FEA has played a pivotal role in coordinating and supporting afforestation initiatives throughout the country. Through extensive awareness campaigns and projects, FEA endeavors to raise public consciousness regarding the critical issues of climate change within Bosnia and Herzegovina and the broader region. Additionally, FEA has been actively involved in addressing the heightened risk of forest fires in the region. This includes the development of the first interactive map of fire vulnerability in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a tool that aids in proactive fire prevention and management. Under the GEF/UNDP SPA - Sustainability of protected areas Project FEA is engaged in update of the management plans, including climate change adaptation measures, for the following for five pilot protected areas in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Una National Park, Blidinje Nature Park, Protected Landscape Vjetrenica-Popovo polje, Nature Monument Vrelo Bosne, and Nature Monument Prokoško Lake. These endeavors are seamlessly connected to the overarching goal of combating climate change and promoting sustainable environmental practices, aligning with SDG 13.

SDG 15 Life on land:

FEA takes pride in two crucial projects. Project Supporting UNCCD Reporting in Serbia (2023) aimed to enhance national-level institutional and technical capacities for UNCCD reporting in line with SDG 15.3. Key achievements included conducting national training for data collection and quality assurance, compiling, and validating the 2021-2022 National Report to UNCCD, raising stakeholder awareness, and providing technical equipment while facilitating participation in related events. Under the Project Preparation of a Valuation Study (expert justification) for the protection of the wider area of the Krušnica River's flow, FEA works on establishment of the new protected area for Bosnia and Herzegovina, contributing expansion of the protected areas network and promoting biodiversity conservation.



Both projects are aligned with regional legislation and contribute significantly to the preservation of the environment, in accordance with SDG 15.

SDG 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:

Through various projects, FEA has been diligently focused on strengthening the capacity of local stakeholders to make informed decisions about fulfilling Bosnia and Herzegovina's environmental protection obligations. In particular, FEA has undertaken projects dedicated to combatting illegal activities within the forestry sector, aiming to strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions. These initiatives have also included the development of various documents, such as standardized operating procedures for law enforcement and inspection bodies related to environmental offenses and incidents. By providing critical tools and resources, FEA contributes significantly to the reinforcement of legal and regulatory frameworks, fostering an environment conducive to peace, justice, and the establishment of strong and effective institutions. Moreover, FEA has initiated an innovative project dedicated to acoustic monitoring within a protected area in Bosnia and Herzegovina, contributing to the reduction of illegal logging in the region and especially in most sensitive areas rich in biodiversity.

SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals:

FEA is a proud member of three influential international organizations: the UNCCD CSO Network, the GEF-CSO Network, and the UN Global Compact. FEA has also established cooperation with more than 20 international and domestic donators and partners during the reporting period.



4 Measurement of Outcomes

FEA, through its dedicated efforts, actively encourages other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and companies to become part of the UN Global Compact and the local network in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We consistently engage with our stakeholders, keeping them well-informed about our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies and activities that are closely aligned with this important agenda.

One of the distinguishing features of FEA's projects is their inherent commitment to social responsibility. Over the past two years, we have successfully executed a diverse range of projects and initiatives, each with a deliberate focus on one or more of the principles outlined by the UN Global Compact (UNGC). This proactive approach reflects our unwavering dedication to promoting ethical and sustainable business practices.

Through a multitude of projects, we have played a pivotal role in fostering networking and forging strategic partnerships that transcend traditional boundaries between the private sector, NGOs, and the public sector. These collaborative efforts have been instrumental in advancing progress towards SDGs. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, we have harnessed collective strength to address complex global challenges.

We recognize the significance of embracing social responsibility and engaging with stakeholders effectively. We are actively addressing core subjects and issues related to social responsibility, while also exploring ways to integrate socially responsible behavior seamlessly into organizations.

Our projects serve as a unifying force, bringing together a wide array of stakeholders, including numerous NGOs, representatives from the private sector, academic institutions, government officials, and various

other key players. These collaborative endeavors embody our mission to drive positive change and create lasting impact, in line with the principles of the UN Global Compact and our unwavering dedication to social responsibility.



fearless in the face of challenges.

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