I. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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This country report provides a comprehensive overview and assessment of the current state-of-play with regard to Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina1. After detailing Bosnia and Herzegovina’s country characteristics, its most important maritime activities are presented. Next, the country report discusses the legal aspects, key players, plans and projects related to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and MSP as well as the relevant international initiatives and platforms for cooperation. To conclude, the main findings related to Maritime Spatial Planning are summed up. The sources of information used and persons contacted are listed at the end. Please note that Bosnia and Herzegovina forms part of one of the four marine areas which were studied in further detail.

I.1. COUNTRY CHARACTERISTICS

Bosnia and Herzegovina is located in South-eastern Europe and is one of the Mediterranean countries having a coastline – although limited – on the Adriatic Sea. Bordered by Croatia and Montenegro at the sea side and by Serbia at the land side, Bosnia and Herzegovina is almost completely landlocked. The country does not have a maritime border with Montenegro, nor with Serbia. A summary of the most important country characteristics is presented in Table 1.

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1 For the purpose of this study 20 country reports have been drawn up in total. Relevant available information on Monaco is included in the case study of the Western Mediterranean and information on the United Kingdom (Gibraltar) is included in the case study of the Alboran Sea.
A treaty between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina on the maritime borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s territorial sea was signed in 1999; however the ratification of the treaty is not completed yet. Nevertheless, Bosnia and Herzegovina’s territorial sea is entirely surrounded by Croatia’s internal waters. The country itself indicates that its territorial sea includes the Neum-Klek bay and half of the Channel of Mali Ston².

Table 1: Country characteristics – Bosnia and Herzegovina

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coastal regions*</th>
<th>Neum municipality (Herzegovina-Neretva Canton)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coastline length**</td>
<td>23 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water depth</td>
<td>Data not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime zones***</td>
<td>A treaty on the maritime borders between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was signed in 1999; however not ratified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Bosnia and Herzegovina is divided into cantons (and each canton is divided into municipalities); the only coastal municipality is the Neum municipality in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton

** Source: MedPAN, www.medpan.org

*** Based on the national acts or decrees of the maritime zones

Source: Policy Research Corporation

I.2. MARITIME ACTIVITIES AND THE PROTECTION OF MARINE AREAS

Bosnia and Herzegovina’s primary maritime activities along the Mediterranean are fishing (2 005 tonnes caught in 2008³), aquaculture⁴ (7 600 tonnes produced in 2008⁵) and seashells production (oyster and mussel), taking place within the Neum-Klek bay. Regarding maritime transport in or near Bosnia and Herzegovina, it should be noted that no maritime ports are in operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the moment. Instead, the Croatian ports are used. However, plans exist for the construction of a harbour in Neum. Offshore wind energy or wave energy are not expected to be used as new energy sources in the short or medium term, as no specific plans with regard to these offshore renewables exist at present⁶. Moreover, according to the Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), no Marine Protected Areas have been declared⁷. Furthermore, no potential areas are currently being discussed⁸. Currently, no national or cross-border competition between the different maritime activities in terms of space is experienced. However, the

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² MAP Focal Point, e-mail January 5, 2010.
³ FAO, Yearbook of fishery statistics.
⁴ Practised in the pools of “Andorra – Commerce” and “Kanaka”.
⁵ FAO, Yearbook of fishery statistics.
⁸ MAP Focal Point, e-mail January 5, 2010.
sea and coastal ecosystem did experience high pressure from among others the fisheries and mariculture sector.

I.3. LEGAL ASPECTS AND KEY PLAYERS

The most important legislation regarding ICZM and MSP in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the *Federal Law on Spatial Planning*.

The following actors are involved:
- Federal Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment;
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry;
- Ministry responsible for Coastal Planning: Neretva Cantonal Ministry for Civil Engineering and Physical Planning;
- Neum Municipality.

I.4. NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL PLANS, PROJECTS AND STUDIES RELATED TO ICZM AND MSP

Currently, there is no ICZM in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are no legislative instruments, mechanisms or procedures for coastal management, and bodies or agencies for integrated management of the coastal area are not present:
- Coastal area planning and management have not been implemented in practice;
- No strategic governmental documents defining the country’s direction towards its coastal zone;
- Several documents mention the importance of the coastal area and guidelines for its arrangement are given; however, these guidelines do not take into account a sustainable development of the coastal zone;
- There is no institutional context for a systematic and permanent management of the coastal area in Bosnia and Herzegovina; management of the coastal area on the Cantonal level is realised through several Cantonal departments (e.g. for spatial management, environmental protection, inspection); however, in general, there is no integration among them.

Even though currently there is no ICZM established in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a number of projects and / or events express the country’s interest in ICZM:

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- **2008**: conference in the framework of the PlanCoast project:
  - Identification of priorities for the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton:
    - Establishment of a monitoring system for the quality of the sea water;
    - Initiation of the ICZM process in the coastal areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
  - Interest by Bosnia and Herzegovina to initiate activities that would contribute to the ICZM protocol;
- The project “Establishment of a system for monitoring the sea quality in the coastal zone of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Introduction of ICZM processes in the coastal zone of Bosnia and Herzegovina” was the first step in the establishment of ICZM practice in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- 2010: intention to sign and ratify the Barcelona Convention’s ICZM protocol in the near future.

Regarding **Maritime Spatial Planning**, Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently preparing a new **Spatial Plan for the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

\[12\] including the spatial planning of maritime activities. The inclusion of the spatial planning of maritime activities was triggered by potential competition between maritime uses when installing a harbour in Neum. Moreover, in order to improve the efficiency of the mariculture sector, **PAP/RAC**\[15\] indicated that among others locations for growing juvenile fish to commercial size should be defined and nutriments for fish feeding should be ensured. Therefore, the spatial planning of the relevant area was believed to be necessary.

The **Spatial Plan of the Neum Municipality** is also under consideration and will have to be in line with the Spatial Plan for the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina once it is adopted.

**I.5. INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES RELATED TO ICZM AND MSP**

International initiatives (including EU-funded projects) related to ICZM and MSP in the Mediterranean Sea basin are presented in *Annex II of the final report*.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina** was / is involved in:

- The **Adriatic Euroregion** (26 members - Regional and local governments from Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Greece);
- The **Adriatic-Ionian Initiative** (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Slovenia and Montenegro);
- The following EU-funded projects:


\[13\] MAP Focal Point, e-mail January 5, 2010.

\[14\] PAP/RAC (in 2007) indicated that management of the coastal area should be based on spatial plans and that, in general, these plans should define among others sea corridors and zones used for navigation traffic, harbour services, nautical tourism, fishing, mariculture, fish processing, salt production, recreational and sports activities.

The IPA Adriatic Cross-Border Programme (within this programme, different projects will be set up involving different Adriatic countries, such as the project Shape (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Montenegro));

The PlanCoast project (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Ukraine).

I.6. MAIN FINDINGS RELEVANT FOR MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

Main findings with respect to the potential for the application of Maritime Spatial Planning in Bosnia and Herzegovina are:

Country characteristics and maritime activities:

− Bosnia and Herzegovina’s territorial sea is limited and completely enclosed by Croatian internal waters; given the country’s limited maritime activities, no national or cross-border competition in terms of space is currently experienced; nevertheless, the sea and coastal ecosystem did experience high pressure from among others the fisheries and mariculture sector.

Current status of Integrated Coastal Zone Management:

− First steps towards the strengthening of the support for ICZM were taken.

Current status of Maritime Spatial Planning:

− Triggered by plans for a harbour in Neum and specific needs related to the mariculture sector, the planning of maritime activities is foreseen in the new Federal Spatial Plan and the Spatial Plan of its coastal zone.

− Less potential for application of international MSP given the limited area under national jurisdiction; nevertheless, best practices should be taken into account with regard to the further analysis of joint MSP in the Adriatic Sea basin.

International cooperation:

− Bosnia and Herzegovina is / was involved in a number of international projects / initiatives involving primarily the Adriatic Sea basin countries.
I.7. OVERVIEW OF SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED AND PERSONS CONTACTED

Sources of information used:

- Agroweb Bosnia and Herzegovina, www.agrowebcee.net/agroweb-bih/fishery;
- Blake, G., Topalovic, D., 1996, *The maritime boundaries of the Adriatic Sea*, Maritime briefing: vol. 1, nr. 8;
- EarthTrends, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems – searchable database, http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db;
- FAO, *Yearbook of fishery statistics*;
- Klemencic, M., 2000, *The border agreement between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina*;
- PAP/RAC, the Mediterranean ICAM Clearing House, www.pap-medclearinghouse.org/eng/about_ch.asp;
- The Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, www.medpan.org;
- World database on protected areas, www.wdpa.org;

Persons contacted:

- Ms. Silvana Cavar, Neretva Cantonal Ministry of Physical Planning;
- Mr. Tarik Kupusovic, MAP Focal Point / Special advisor to the Minister of Physical Planning and Environment – Hydro Engineering Institute.