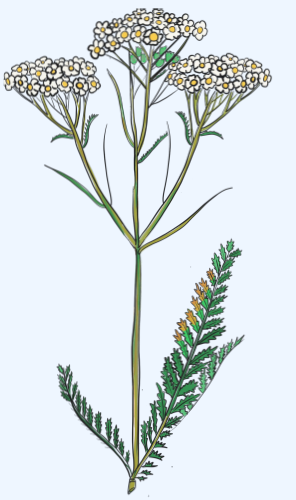
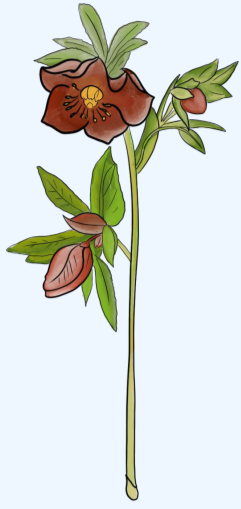


SUSTAINABLE TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AND KNOWLEDGE OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Traditional practices in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) are integral to biodiversity conservation, relying on traditional ecological knowledge to sustain natural resources. These methods emphasize a balance between human needs and environmental health, supporting species and cultural diversity, ecosystem stability, and community resilience.

TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AND KNOWLEDGE

In BiH, there is a significant wealth of traditional and local knowledge and practices in the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services.



Sustainable Use

The use of biodiversity in BiH has a strong base in traditional knowledge, innovation and practices. E.g., sustainable foraging is common for harvesting mushrooms, hazelnuts, chestnuts, and wild cherries.

Practices for Sustained Income

Historical records show that harvesters collected resources moderately to sustain income. E.g., to ensure future harvests, green-winged orchid tuber collectors left one tuber for regrowth, while sweepers shook off sorghum seeds to secure the next yield.

Traditional fishing

Local population is still engaged in traditional fishing of catfish, pike, perch, bream, roach and barbel, despite reduced fish stocks.

Sustainable Agriculture

Practices such as crop rotation, organic fertilization, and low-impact farming techniques improve soil quality and promote habitat diversity.

CHALLENGES TO TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AND KNOWLEDGE

In BiH, there is a proven loss of traditional knowledge and practices.

- **Depopulation and Migration:** Rural-urban migration in the last few decades have led to a massive interruption of the intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge.
- **Conversion and Loss of Natural Habitats:** Infrastructural developments from seashores to mountaintops, along with climate change, overexploitation of resources, and pollution affect habitats and species that are essential for traditional practices.
- **Lifestyle Change:** With modernization and urbanization, traditional knowledge is at risk as younger generations focus less on these practices.
- **Industrialization** substituted some traditional methods, reducing the demand for local materials and traditional knowledge systems.
- **Lack of Legal Protection and Regulation** for traditional crafts, practices and indigenous plant varieties.

HOW TO STRENGTHEN AND SCALE-UP TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AND KNOWLEDGE

In BiH, there is a strong interest in learning and returning to traditional knowledge and practices. However, traditional knowledge is underutilized in national biodiversity planning and actions.

Policy Support

Review and update national and local policies to protect traditional practices and knowledge, promote equitable access to benefit sharing, regulate sustainable harvesting, and support ecotourism tied to biodiversity conservation and cultural preservation.

Education

Mainstream traditional ecological knowledge into school curricula to raise awareness and preserve folk practices and knowledge for future generations.

Documentation

Document traditional knowledge in line with Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and community data sovereignty.

Knowledge Co-production

Support scientific collaboration with traditional knowledge holders for evidence-based and local appropriate solutions.

Community Engagement Programs

Establish community-led initiatives that encourage knowledge sharing between generations and celebrate cultural heritage.

Young Generation

Leverage community social networks and digital tools to promote intergenerational knowledge transfer.

Awareness Creation

Raise awareness of the values and importance of traditional knowledge in biodiversity conservation, targeting different actors.