







CONTEXT

Environmental crimes are illegal activities that pose a risk or cause significant damage to the environment and/or human health. The most common examples are air, water, and soil pollution, and contrary to regulations disposal and release of hazardous waste or substances.

So far, a small number of criminal proceedings related to environmental protection have been prosecuted in Serbia.

In order for environmental protection to be adequate, it is necessary to strengthen cooperation between institutions and society to ensure an effective criminal-legal response.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project seeks to ensure effective access to justice, reduce environmental crime in Serbia, improve penal policies for violations of regulations in the field of environmental protection, and increase awareness and participation of citizens in environmental protection policies.

The project plans to achieve these goals by:

- Improving the capacity of institutions for sanctioning violators of regulations with a focus on public prosecution;
- · Developing communication and intersectoral cooperation between different institutions;
 - · Providing material and legal support to Environmental Human Rights Defenders;
 - Improving information and raising awareness of citizens, especially youth and the business sector about access to justice and environmental protection;
 - Reducing corruption and protecting environmental activists and whistleblowers.

TARGET GROUP

The project will involve the public and private sectors, judicial authorities, administrative authorities, law enforcement, institutions responsible for environmental protection, environmental activists, civil society, youth and the media.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

- Enhanced public prosecutors' knowledge and skills in processing of environmental crime cases.
- · Increased cooperation among environmental protection stakeholders.
- Enhanced engagement of citizens and their cooperation with public prosecutors regarding environmental protection.
- · Raised awareness on environmental crimes and environmental protection.
 - · Improved judicial response to corruption in environmental protection cases and an enabling environment created for Environmental Human Rights Defenders.

DURATION

JANUARY 2025 - DECEMBER 2028

LOCATION

THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

DONOR

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

IMPLEMENTATION

Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights (YUCOM)
Prosecutors Association of Serbia (PAS)

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