

## 08 Conservation and management

In management plans, we defined objectives with regard to the meandering upper reaches of streams with sandy deposits in forested stands, as well as appropriate actions: (i) special forest management units with recommendations to adapt the rules of temporal and spatial arrangement; (ii) special regulation of reforestation, i.e., to use only natural methods of forest regeneration; (iii) adaptation of the rules of timber transport to avoid damage to the soil surface not to cross a streambed during timber transport; (iv) establishment of core zones in areas along the watercourses with a width of 40 m along all streams, where also, any kind of timber harvesting is prohibited; (v) regular monitoring of habitat integrity and populations to identify potential threats; (vi) to draft a compensation programme for forest owners affected by application of the management restrictions.

### 8.5 Distribution and protection of dragonflies of European conservation concern in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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**The Odonata fauna** of large parts of the Balkans, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, is one of the least known in Europe. In order to enable the long-term conservation of dragonflies, it is crucial not only to have good knowledge on the occurrence of dragonflies and their habitats, but also on the trends of population sizes, and to identify the key habitats for dragonflies.

In 2009, we started with a survey of the dragonfly fauna in the country. The main focus were the species of conservation concern, especially species of European concern, here defined as the IUCN Red List species and the ones mentioned in the Habitats Directive.

We present some results of the survey and give an overview on the distribution and status of the rare, potentially threatened species and those of European concern in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Up to now, 63 species were found, including six species of European concern. A list of 13 rare and potentially threatened species is compiled, and a network of 15 key areas for dragonflies has been identified. A national dragonfly database has been created, holding all available data, including species present in collections, published in literature, and more than 4,000 new records.

A Red List is planned for the future. Most species and several important habitats are not protected at all. Aquatic habitats are increasingly threatened by human activities and, in combination with climate change, will significantly lead to the deterioration of the conservation status of many species in the near future. Karst watercourses are considered to be the most important aquatic habitats and are very important for many species. The main threats are represented by regulations of water flow, construction of dams, climate change, pollution, and introduction of alien species.



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