



Strengthening Capacities in the Western Balkans Countries to Address Environmental Problems through Remediation of High Priority Hot Spots

## Media Advisory

### Premiere of documentary movie “Western Balkans – 8 Steps Forward” within the Western Balkans Environmental Programme

**What:** Within the Western Balkans Environmental Programme, the Ministry for Spatial Planning and Environment Protection and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will organize a premiere of the documentary movie “Western Balkans – 8 Steps Forward”.

“Western Balkans – 8 Steps Forward” is a documentary story about the regional cooperation in the Western Balkans with an aim to jointly remediate the environmental hot spots that were endangering people’s health and the environment. Produced by the **Mediacentar Sarajevo** (Director: **Alen Drljević**, Cameraman: **Mustafa Mustafić**, Editor: **Elvedin Zorlak**, Music: **Zlatan Stipišić – Gibonni**), the movie was filmed in the period from 2008 to 2010, at eight locations in the Western Balkans.

#### Introductory notes:

##### Importance of the regional cooperation in addressing environmental issues:

H.E. Mr. Branimir Gvozdenović, Minister of Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection of the Government of Montenegro

##### Support of the Government of the Kingdom of Netherlands to environmental programmes in the Western Balkans:

Ms. Zumreta Jahić, First Secretary of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Belgrade

##### UNDP’s role in addressing environmental challenges in the Western Balkans:

Mr Alexander Avanesov, UNDP Resident Representative/UN Resident Coordinator in Montenegro

The movie will be shown after the introductory notes.

**When:** Friday, 11 June 2010 at 6 p.m.

**Where:** Hotel Podgorica, Podgorica

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The documentary movie premiere will be attended by the environmental experts from six countries/territories involved in the Western Balkans Environmental Programme (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, the FYR Macedonia, and UNATSCR 1244 Kosovo), programme beneficiaries and partners such as representatives of the national and local governments, management authorities of the remediated sites, civil society organizations and independent experts.

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Regional environmental programme (“Strengthening Capacities in the Western Balkans Countries to Address Environmental Problems through Remediation of High Priority Hot Spots”) was implemented over the course of three years, and it was funded by the Government of the Netherlands with 15 million USD. The regional hub based in UNDP Montenegro coordinated this Programme. This was the largest regional programme that has been conducted by UNDP in South Eastern Europe to date, and it has united the efforts of 6 countries/territories in the Western Balkans around environmental and development issues after almost two decades of conflict and instability. The main goal of the project was to remediate environmental hot spots, according to the priorities of the national governments in the mentioned countries/territories in the Western Balkans. Some of those hot spots had an important cross-border impact on the quality of water and air.

Beside the clean-up works needed to mitigate environmental and human health problems at the eight selected locations, an important component of the Western Balkans Environmental Programme was achieving progress in environmental protection and quality of life of the citizens through strengthening dialogue on local and national policies, as well as through strengthening the sector of local professional services in the domain of environmental management.

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