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To the kind attention of the Green Climate Fund Secretariat

23rd May 2022

Dear Secretariat of the Green Climate Fund,

With this letter, WWF Adria extends our support for the application of the project “Enhancing the resilience of Serbian forests and the carbon storage potential of the country to support and boost the decarbonization process through adaptation and mitigation investments” to the Green Climate Fund.

WWF Adria is an office of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), mandated to implement the mission of WWF in eight countries of the Western Balkans, including Serbia. We are committed to reversing the loss of biodiversity, restoring and revitalizing ecosystems, and decreasing societal footprint on natural resources. We do this by advocating for transparency and good governance principles in environmental decision making, promoting sustainable and inclusive development approaches, and providing solutions for restoration and recovery.

Serbia is one of the global centers of biodiversity, and almost 30% of its territory is covered by forests. However, considering current climate trends and climate change projections, forest ecosystems in Serbia will suffer significant impact. This will degrade the ability of forests to provide various ecosystem services (e.g. carbon sequestration, soil stabilization, etc.), eventually also negatively impacting communities.

The proposed project offers a multi-directional approach weaving together forest management, forest governance and private sector to reduce vulnerability of forest ecosystems to climate change. Through a multi-stakeholder approach bringing together policy and sectoral decision makers, local communities and private businesses, this project is looking to secure an inclusive and participatory planning for achieving climate resilience.

When successfully implemented, this project will contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as enable a paradigm shift in Serbian forest management sector towards sustainability and resilience. WWF Adria is excited at the prospect of such a project in Serbia, and we are looking forward to cooperating on and supporting its implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Petra Remeta".

Petra Remeta

Conservation programs manager, WWF Adria