

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Instructions to grantees: please complete all fields, and respond to all questions, below.

Organization Legal Name	<i>Center for Research and Protection of Birds</i>
Project Title	River Moraca, sustainable development against floods
CEPF GEM No.	65719
Date of Report	November 2016

CEPF Hotspot: River Moraca

Strategic Direction: 2 Establish sustainable management of water catchments in 4 priority corridors

Grant Amount: 89 999,00 \$

Project Dates: Start date 04/01/2015 End date: 09/30/2016

1. Implementation Partners for this Project (*list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project*)

a) NGO MANS

Together with NGO MANS, the meeting with NGOs was organized as an establishment of unformal NGO coalition oriented to Moraca river protection. Six NGOs (including CZP and MANS) took part at this meeting. Parallel with this project activities MANS conducted other activities on protection of the canyon such as monitoring of illegal activities on gravel extraction in the area of Moraca canyon.

b) NGO Godinje

CZIP signed Agreement on Cooperation with **NGO Godinje** based on their previous experience with local communities and organic producers. The NGO Godinje was in charge of engagement of agricultural engineer and establishment of so-called advisory service with task to target, gather and involve local grape producers and give trainings to them. NGO Godinje prepared work plan and was in charge of organizing each field work as well as providing supportive materials.

b) Association of beekeepers Podgorica

Even though it was not planned in the original project proposal, CZIP has approached to the **Association of Beekeepers Podgorica** and found high interest for participation. After the Agreement on Cooperation was signed, we had fruitful collaboration with the Association. Moreover, Association gave favourable prices for bee hives and colonies and was mediator in the process of involvement and awarding of young bee keepers.

Association was in charge of announcement of calls for subventions of beekeepers, selection process and hives production. Association has also obligation to follow work of awarded bee keepers and report to CZIP once per year.

c) Tourism Organization (TO) Podgorica

TO Podgorica has shown their interest in promotion of birdwatching on the area of Podgorica Municipality so we signed Agreement on Cooperation with TO and agreed on future promotion. At the very beginning of the project, TO Podgorica was introduced future activities and has shown their interest in support and promotion. They have given inputs and support in following activities: preparation and printing of promotional brochure and preparation of info tables. TO has distributed printed brochures all around the Europe on tourism trades they have been participated in.

d) NGO Biciklo.me

Last year we initiated action with Biciklo.me association "Cycling in honour of Moraca River". Biciklo.me organizes "Critical mass" action every last Friday each month with some specific topic. This one was organized in honour of the river Moraca. Bicklo.me created event on social media and invited people to the event.

e) Housing agency

Housing agency supported setting up 5 info tables in the canyon.

Conservation Impacts

2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF investment strategy set out in the ecosystem profile

This project was implemented in the area of Moraca river canyon, one of last wild rivers on the Balkans and has contributed to the CEPF strategic direction 2 to establish sustainable management of water catchments and the wise use of water resources with a focus on the priority corridor (4) Southwest Balkan.

Numerous activities on strengthening local economy especially contributed to CEPF's locally-relevant information on natural ecosystems was generated.

This project very first time that someone approached to local communities in Moraca canyon serving them examples and giving opportunity to see how similar potentials somewhere else are being valorised. So raising awareness on potential negative impacts of hydro-power plants construction was achieved. Local community was informed on the benefits from strengthened local economy based on eco-tourism and sustainable agriculture development

Through this project collaboration with Chamber of commerce was established and they will also take participation in training which will be organized through Natura 2000 project in Montenegro (what was initiated by this project). By this we are planning to strengthen their knowledge in nature protection in general and decrease number of bed planned investments projects.

Thanks to training and advisory service which were regularly organized in household's use of chemicals for agriculture was decreased. Agriculture in canyon is still being done in a traditional rather primitive way. Trough field training, local community received a plan for chemical treatment of plants with doses optimal for its protections, which will then significantly decrease use of pesticides and training participant were supported with precise scales.

Organized visits to vineyards in Crmnica and Peljesac and exchange of experience on maintaining vineyards, vine making, with the professional help by qualified person, helped informing the local vine producers and individuals who are planning to start with vine and rakija production.

3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

First steps for declaring the Moraca Canyon an IBA site have been made. Discussion with the BirdLife International regarding the declaring the Moraca Canyon an IBA site has been initiated. Close cooperation with the *Establishment of NATURA 2000 network in Montenegro* was developed, what ensured the use of data collected through this project as the basis for future investigation of the Canyon area. It was agreed that the most optimal and professional approach is to declare Moraca canyon IBA and SPA site at the same time, taking in account population assessment on the state level.

Local economy was strengthened based on sustainable use of canyon resources. First of all, new tourism facilities were introduced in the Canyon area, such as five alpine directions and five birdwatching points. Also, for local community members, we organized series of trainings with the aim to raise awareness on effective water use and decrease level of pesticides used in grape production. On the other hand, through this component, a study visit for 7 locals was organised, and locals had an opportunity to gain new knowledge in area of tourism offer based on vine production.

Promotion of drop by drop irrigation system meant decrease of river water use, ensuring the biological minimum of water flow (e-flow) and its persistence throughout the year.

Local economy was strengthened with 48 bee hives and 24 bee colonies, which were distributed to 12 young honey producers in the Canyon.

First time the Moraca Canyon was actively promoted as a touristic destination. Through this component we set promotional billboard during the touristic season, developed website moracacanyon.me and prepared and printed promotional brochures.

Also, an important project segment was capacity building for CZIP employees, who had a chance to exchange the best practice examples with Moroccan ecological organizations and therefore to strengthen capacities in the field of Integrated River Basin Management.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each long-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

- 1) Declaring the Moraca Canyon as IBA will ensure better advocacy against planned four HP dams and will establish legal ground for future legal declaring of the canyon as nationally protected area.
- 2) Local economy will be strengthened through numerous activities focused on communities and their livelihood coming from sustainable use of resources in both agriculture and tourism.

4. Actual progress toward long-term impacts at completion

1) During the project implementation this long-term impact has been limited as it is not depended only on CZIP activities. Discussion with the BirdLife International has started in February 2016. After few months of discussion, CZIP received official approval to fulfil table needed for declaring the site as IBA. In meanwhile, the tender for establishment of NATURA 2000 network was closed and the implementation of the project began on the beginning of

May. In Project's ToR it was defined that the Project team is obliged to work in close cooperation with CZIP on data verification, borders delineation and other activities needed for declaring SPA sites. Taking into account that CZIP has already established active cooperation with project consortium and the intended dynamics we were suggested by the BLI that the most optimal and professionally correct would be to declare the Moraca canyon an IBA and SPA site at same time, based on population assessment on the state level.

Also, the new Nature Protection Act, unlike IBA, recognizes NATURA 2000 as ecological network, what should additionally protect the Canyon.

Monitoring of birds was conducted during the project implementation and all data were contribution to the EBBA, which is prepared in cooperation with the BLI. Also data will serve to NATURA 2000 experts as a starting point for future investigations.

2) Local economy was strengthened based on sustainable use of Canyon resources. First of all, new tourism facilities were introduced in the canyon area, such as: five alpine directions and five bird watching points. Also for local community members we organized series of trainings with the aim to raise awareness on effective water use and decrease level of pesticides used in grape production. The point interesting and new for as, which raised during the project implementation was interest of locals in tourism and valorisation and connection of their production with tourism as additional income opportunity.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each short-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

- 1) *A year regular and detailed monitoring of birds will be conducted and collected data used for yearly monitoring report on biodiversity by Environmental protection agency (as well as for IBA designation process)*
- 2) *15% of project area households will be directly involved in project activities and 60% of them indirectly addressed through knowledge sharing and raising awareness activities.*
- 3) *Promotional activities will increase knowledge of local communities on biodiversity values of Moraca canyon for 80%.*
- 4) *Strengthening of the area tourism offer (bird watching, hiking, alpinism and gastronomy) will be increased on local, national and international level.*
- 5) *Networking of local communities and regional offers will be established through best practice exchange by visiting Crmnica region and participating on festivals, fairs and events.*
- 6) *Project team capacities will be built on the matter of river basin management activities improving values of local communities, while the NGO coalition will encourage joint initiatives and strengthen capacities.*

5. Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion

- 1) *A year regular and detailed monitoring of birds will be conducted and collected data used for yearly monitoring report on biodiversity by Environmental protection agency (as well as for IBA designation process)*

Regular monitoring of birds was conducted during the project implementation and all data were contribution to the EBBA, which is prepared in cooperation with BLI. Also data will serve to NATURA 2000 experts as a starting point for future investigations.

- 2) 15% of project area households will be directly involved in project activities and 60% of them indirectly addressed through knowledge sharing and raising awareness activities.

Through various activities the altogether 28 local households were directly involved during the project lifetime. As activities were well presented in public, more than 60% of all population were introduced with both project goal and project activities.

- 3) Promotional activities will increase knowledge of local communities on biodiversity values of Moraca canyon for 80%.

This has been successfully done through promotion of all project activities via mass media articles and reports. Starting with billboard, continuing with promotion of work with local community, raising awareness through activities conducted together with other CSOs and at the and promotional activities implementation we can claim that knowledge of local communities has been increased for at least 90%.

- 4) Strengthening of the area tourism offer (bird watching, hiking, alpinism and gastronomy) will be increased on local, national and international level.

At the beginning, we would like to emphasize that setting tables with information about importance of Moraca river for bird diversity was first time to promote and organize presenting such type of information to locals and tourist as well. Also through above mentioned promotional activities awareness was raised on national level.

- 5) Networking of local communities and regional offers will be established through best practice exchange by visiting Crmnica region and participating on festivals, fairs and events.

Through project implementation in the field we found this component very important. Farmers from canyon area visited not only Godinje as it was originally planned but also Croatian peninsula well known for grape and vine production. Keeping in mind that local community have not had chance earlier to be introduced this possibility of tourism development and financial benefits, establishing this kind of cooperation seems to be an important step.

- 6) Project team capacities will be built on the matter of river basin management activities improving values of local communities, while the NGO coalition will encourage joint initiatives and strengthen capacities.

As it was stated from the very beginning CZIP employees haven't had an opportunity earlier to face with Integrated River Basin Management issues. Nowadays rivers on the Balkans are target of many investors, so this project was an excellent opportunity for capacity building in several areas. NGO coalition was established and even though was not very active, it moved things from the dead point and some initiatives were shared and implemented at least when it comes to awareness raising activities.

6. Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impacts

Generally speaking, planned impact have been successfully achieved. The main assumption and risk was declaring the Moraca Canyon as IBA site, as this activity depends on more interdependent factors. At the end we found most appropriate solution and are making steps in this direction, which will ensure official protection on international level (as Natura 2000 site) and on national as well - ecological network Natura 2000 is recognized in new Nature Protection Act adopted in August 2016.

One of the biggest challenges was also involvement of local community, especially keeping in mind that this is the first time that project like this is being implemented in the area of the Canyon. Even though this could be the most critical point, the interest of local farmers was better than we expected.

It is especially important to mention the success in the area of strengthening local economy and tourism offer, especially bearing in mind that it was done more than it was originally planned in the project proposal, such as subvention to locals with more than double number of bee hives and bee colonies. On the other hand, we can state that promotional component was quite strong, as the most of mass media reported on a lot of conducted activities of the project.

Analyses of soil which were conducted through have shown enormous usage of artificial fertilizer which, together with unsustainable watering, has significantly endangered river ecosystem. This contributes to drying up of the river during the summer months. Excessive use of chemicals led to the water poisoning by flushing during the summer months, as well soil poisoning. Soil in the canyon is karstic and huge amount of water used for watering would be immediately lost in the land, and have remained unused by the plants that are watered. Improving the status by using drip system (and significant reduction of water consumption in households) allows the maintenance of aquatic ecosystems stable (and thus also makes better conditions for water organisms). Moreover, reducing the usage of artificial fertilizers as result of soil analysis as well as the introduction of the special scales for precise measurement of chemicals for treatment of agriculture land, significantly reduced the chemistry in agriculture. This will be reflected in the food base of important bird species residing in Canyon.

7. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

8. Describe the results from Component 1 and each product/deliverable

Component 1 (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

1.1 Data base for bird species

Based on data collected during project implementation period canyon become a part of EBBA European Breeding Bird Atlas. Few quadrants were also researched using methodology for European Breeding Atlas development. Those data are stored in CZIP data base and on online platform: www.observation.org. Moreover, monitoring of this area on mentioned methodology will be used for preparation of National Atlas of Breeding Birds.

1.2 Designated Morača canyon as IBA site by the end of 2016

As it was explained in some previous paragraphs, this product was not completely fulfilled. What was considered after conducted monitoring was the question if the Moraca Canyon deserves the

IBA title, especially if we compare its ornithological richness with its tributaries (Mala Rijeka and Mrtvica canyon). Results should be also compared to other areas as well, so we were suggested by the BirdLife International with the goal not to lose credibility, to wait for results of Natura 2000 project investigation in whole state and have clearer picture on position and ornithological richness of the canyon on ornithological map of Montenegro.

1.3 NGO coalition



On 26th June 2015 MANS and CZIP organized a Meeting for NGOs interested in protection of the canyon. The call for participation was sent via mailing groups MANS eco list, CRNVO and E-Mreža (E-net) and separately for few NGOs already active in the Canyon during the previous campaign. CRNVO is a mailing list of all NGOs in Montenegro and MANS eco list and E-net are mailing list where NGOs dealing with nature protection are included.

NGO representatives were introduced with CZIP and MANS project activities, hazards from illegal activities and potential activities need to be taken for future protection and promotion of the canyon.

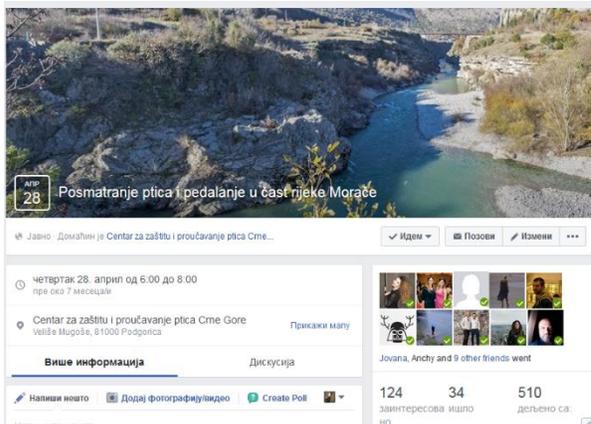
Unfortunately, this was not the strongest point of the project as this topic was not hot potato and some other ecological issues took the monopoly. Implicitly, many NGOs see fight against investor as closed story and dams as already built.

As there were no some direct activities and threats on the river during the project lifetime, the coalition was not actively involved. CZIP has prepared official letter when news about signing Agreement between Slovenian and Montenegrin Chamber of Commerce, aiming to build hydropower plants, has appeared. In this process members of Montenegrin coalition were not involved as this was matter of experts opinion. MANS has provided us with important inputs related so socio-economic side of the story, explaining (non)relevance of existing documentation such as conceptual design, not precisely calculated and pointed out real economic benefit from hydropower plants and lack of arguments to support assertion that planned sources are needed so solve energetic deficit. The official letter was prepared and signed by Montenegrin and Slovenian associations dealing with bird and fish protection. Involving other NGOs would, from our point of view, would make a process longer and wider. On the other hand, we see this as new “alliance” with other NGOs involved in this process, even from the region, so their experience and support can be also useful in future activities in the canyon.

The emailing list was the most useful for information distribution, so on this way NGO Biciklo.me organized event raising awareness of importance of Moraca river and also NGO Pokret Rovaca was introduced the call for subventions for bee keepers and distributed it among locals.



As it will be explained later in report, NGO Biciklo.me, after being informed on activities CZIP is performing in the canyon has approached to us proposing some common activities organization. The cycling in honour of Moraca River was organized. We are aware that not all of the participant would support our fight against dams, but still it is significant that so many people, oriented to healthy life style and some new trends, have been informed on importance of the canyon as bird site and also of bad influence of dam's construction.



There was also idea and attempt to make step further and organize another event – combining cycling and birdwatching. This event was nicely promoted, even on some web portals, but unfortunately rain made us cancel it.

Our aim was to step by step inform and sensitize supporters of bicycling as this is also newly formed critical mass, gathering more and more participant in last two years. They are mostly supportive towards environmental issues, how representatives of this NGO explained, but as bird watching

is newly promoted in Montenegro, they are seen as potential target group to make involved and active in bird protection. Even though this event was not organized during project lifetime, it is surely planned for future.

Another above mentioned activity of Pokret za razvoj Rovaca (local NGO from the canyon) was directly oriented to local community. During the project they have joined us in the field on one training organized for local vine producer and have informed locals in other part of the canyon about advisory service we have organized. Also they had significant role in distributing information about bee hives awarding in 2016.

9. Repeat point 8 above for each Component in your approved proposal

Component 2 (as stated in the approved proposal)

Strengthened local economy based on sustainable use of canyon resources

2.2.1 Five alpine paths made and included in touristic offer of the canyon

CZIP has signed Contract on Cooperation with the Outdoor Club Podgorica (Mali alpinistički klub) on 24th April. This Contract establishes the cooperation on paths marking and defines all obligations of partners. Until the end of April Outdoor Club suggested the cliff for the paths. There are many factors to be taken into account when deciding which cliff is suitable for rock climbing, such as: quality of the rock crucial for the safety of the climbers, easy access and proximity of parking spot, spatial orientation of the cliff which can prolong the climbing season in cold periods of the year, is the cliff used for nesting of birds etc. Also one of important factors for choosing location was new highway. As we were told from MAK – many of so far made directions will be destroyed during new highway which is being built at the moment.

CENTAR ZA ZAŠTITU I PROUČAVANJE PTICA
Procjena uticaja na životnu sredinu
izgradnje staza za slobodno penjanje u
kanjonu rijeke Morače



Podgorica, maj 2015.

CZIP team visited proposed area and agreed with proposal. Therefore, independent expert was engaged to prepare Environmental Impact Assessment in 40 days and it was finished by the end of June.

The EIA gave positive opinion on chosen cliff without endangering any specie or its site. Please see the document on following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3xtnys3p9cjt9h9/EIA%20Mora%C4%8Da%2C%20final%20.pdf?dl=0>

After preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment, activities of MAK started work in the field. This work contained few phases:



- Setting the access route and cliff base (clearing the area and marking)
 - Clearing the cliff with future routes
- Whole surface of the cliff was be carefully investigated and all loose and potentially dangerous rocks were removed along with all vegetation.
- After marking of the route an informative board was placed. Info board contains basic data on climbing route along with the illustrative representation of the cliff with all routes marked. It was placed on turning to the cliff where directions were prepared.

Please see more detailed report prepared from MAK on following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/abjzhbclvtg5bx/MAC%2C%20Report%20alpin%20trails.pdf?dl=0>



After the trails were marked, opening event was organized. MAK members and one media representative were present.

The trails were also promoted in media. Even though there are already more than 20 trails marked in the canyon, this event highly drew attention of media. Until now only free climbing lovers were aware of this kind of tourism potential of the canyon. Having even popular Montenegrin actor in the field, this topic was made more interesting for wider public.

The press release was delivered to the journalists and it was published on few national portals and newspapers, such as the following:

<http://www.cdm.me/drustvo/crna-gora/czip-alpinisticke-staze-jacaju-turisticku-ponudu-kanjona-morace>

<http://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/czip-alpinisticke-staze-u-kanjonu-morace-doprinos-razvoju-turizma-865231>

<http://crna.gora.me/vijesti/drustvo/czip-alpinisticke-staze-jacaju-turisticku-ponudu-kanjona-morace/>

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ljde5zpp4vnckir/AAAjddFyDCklzJ3TLLOPXoOma?dl=0&preview=13.12.CDM.pdf>

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ljde5zpp4vnckir/AAAjddFyDCklzJ3TLLOPXoOma?dl=0&preview=14.12.Dnevne+Novine.pdf>

<http://www.birdwatchingmn.org/aktuelno/408-alpinisticke-staze-u-kanjonu-morace-kao-doprinos-jacanju-lokalne-ekonomije>

We reported twice for TV stations: State television and TV Vijesti. Unfortunately we have not received tape from this reports.

Also, information about trails is included in the promotional materials, both the brochure and the website.

2.2 At least 5 birdwatching points mapped

Before selecting suitable points CZIP performed monitoring of birds in the canyon for two months. Five points suitable for placing the information boards were chosen. The selection criteria for this activity were the trail accessibility with opportunity of car parking and possibility to see the most charismatic species. Keeping in mind that this is the busiest road it is important to offer to tourist, especially foreigners, places where they can take a rest and spend some time in nature.

Three information boards are placed at the selected location for birdwatching, while the remaining two are used for marking directions of the routes, suggesting ideal places for seeing important species.

The information boards were positioned at the following locations:

- Smokovac,
- Near to outfall of Mala River in Maraca,
- In Medjurječje - close to outfall of River Mrtvica to Maraca,
- Near Moraca Monastery and in

- Canyon, 3 km before the outfall of the River Mrtvica to Maraca.

Please find design of all five tables on the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5edk5mpjza1bgxz/AABq2sP2RXI6Ae3me-jOryVPa?dl=0>

Moreover, we gained support from the municipal Agency for housing for this activity. Even though it was originally planned to support physical positioning of the boards, due to their busy schedule during December (when permit for setting tables was occurred) the Agency supported our action with 150 euro of donation.

The information boards are made of solid wood, covered with the wooden roof protected with tegola (roof shingle). Please find corresponding photos at the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mojkriq39w8sm4n/AADwdnKRQuM-FKlvZD5mFo13a?dl=0>

Upon positioning the boards in December wider public was informed through CZIP's website, social and mass media.

Please find relevant articles at the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ljde5zpp4vnckir/AAAjddFyDCklzJ3TLLOPXoOma?dl=0>



2.3 At least 15 households trained and visited by advisory service

In cooperation with partner organization Godinje the agricultural Engineer was engaged for purpose of this activity realization. The main criteria was previous experience in agriculture and work with local communities. The person who has been chosen had four years of experience on engaging farmers to produce organic food and decrease the percentage of chemicals use. First five trainings were organized in different experimental households (Please see some photos from the field trips:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/j5zgj1u3ehcnqk/AAAt-eJ6ttoN0_CnOmEzff7ja?dl=0).

At the beginning it seemed that interest for the advisory service is better than anticipated. On the very first day we had 11 farmers listed. On almost each training one or two new persons were present, so we had 15 producers involved at the end. Due to fact that some of vine producers are not permanently living in the Canyon, 11 of them are actively involved and 4 of them used to attend in accordance with their obligations.

The continuous training were conducted during project lasting. Numerous issues were raised up. At the very beginning work plan was prepared but situation in the field has shown some additional interest from the farmers so trainings were adjusted to their needs.

Engaged Engineer provided participant with supporting materials.

This activity was also strongly followed by media. On the following links you can find two TV stories related to this topic:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3jy5AG9SFo>;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41gvQ6kV73Q> where project coordinator and Agriculture engineer presented this activity.



2.4 Local economy strengthened by purchasing of 10 bee hives with already formed bee colonies to experienced bee keepers

Originally it was planned to strengthen 4 young honey producers in the Canyon with 20 bee hives and 10 bee colonies. Due to establishment of good cooperation with the Association of Beekeepers Podgorica and the Foundation Petrovic Njegos, during the project last we managed to obtain 48 bee hives and 24 bee colonies for 12 bee keepers.

On very first meeting with the Associating it was agreed to prepare contract between CZIP and Association, where criteria for choosing users of the subvention will be defined.

The subvention was intended for 5 households, 4 hives and 2 colonies per household.

Criteria were the following:

1. Households set in geographical area of Moraca Canyon
2. Membership in Association of Beekeepers Podgorica
3. Age under 40
4. Does not have more than 5 bee hives in poses
5. Beekeeping is not family job
6. To participate in the donation with a contribution of 20% of the funds
7. To have a mentor
8. The obligation to work in beekeeping for next five years.

All criteria were defined with the aim to ensure real interest of beekeepers willing to work with bee keeping in future. By ngaging farmers and beekeepers under 40 we wanted to encourage younger population to stay in the villages and do farming. Due to the fact that every user of the funds was obliged to contribute with 20% of all amount, candidates having no real interest for the beekeeping gave up. With the contribution on the subvention, we provided support for one more

household. Altogether 6 households were supported by the Program in the first season (year 2015). Please see more information:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/32ucmza3rnlxd2c/AABa7G1WSgIHuZR4KhvqMjaa?dl=0>

As member of the Association of beekeepers Podgorica found idea for subventions as excellent support and stimulation, special offer for the bee hives and bee colonies was received what gave us opportunity to double amount of originally planned support.

After consultations with the Foundation Petrovic Njegos and Association of beekeepers it was agreed to organize subvention process in 2016 as well.

This action of strengthening development of beekeeping in the canyon had great feedback, huge interest of mass media. Please find some articles on following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/myaf1q5v9wboxft/AAB0CWsRo1EgYzPlyGu15lr2a?dl=0>

The activity was also interesting topic on 3 TV channels in Montenegro: State Television, TV Prva and TV Vijesti. Please see one of those reports below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puBbFv3mhjg>

2.5 Installed drop by drop irrigation systems in two households

After almost a year spent in the field with local community, we concluded that there was a much better picture regarding the awareness level of different topics. We were surprised to see that locals already use irrigation systems and that all of them were very interested to have soil sampling on their ground. After consultations with RIT, we decided to transfer a part of means intended for one water irrigation system, and to provide additional soil sampling for all active participants in training. The results of soil sample with advice were delivered to each producer and during next visit of our agriculture engineer, this topic will be discussed with special attention. CZIP organized open call for farmers in the area of the canyon. They should have fulfilled the following conditions:

- Small, extensive producers
- Registered as farmers
- At least one spouse should be unemployed
- Selling from house, i.e. not to have brand products

The simple questionnaire was prepared with the questions related to social status, ecological awareness, land possession in the Canyon, list of all agricultural machinery. The special trick question was related to the land selling in case of dam building.

The call for applications was also posted on CZIP website:

<http://czip.me/aktuelno/530-podrsaka-odrzivoj-poljoprivredi-sistem-za-navodnjavanje-domacinstvu-u-kanjonu-morace>

One water irrigation system was assigned to Aleksandar Radonjic, one of the most active locals and one of the biggest producers of rakija. Aleksandar has huge property and is very active in extending and strengthening his diverse farm. At the beginning of the project, Aleksandar was interested to plant new vineyard, so we discussed on how we could support him through this water irrigation system.

2.6 At least 10 people visited Crmnica region for best practice exchange



August 19, 2015
Visit to Crmnica

Time	
7:30	Meeting at Bloče, in front of restaurant Mijović
9:30	Arriving at Crmnica, meeting host, introducing
9:40	Visiting vine yards, discussion, questions to the host
10:30	Visiting host's household and vineyard, taking producer to the tour hosts usually organizes to tourist
13:00	Lunch
14:30	Visit to vine basement
15:30	Departure

In cooperation with NGO Godinje educational program was prepared and implemented in August. The Engineer who is in charge of the training, offered to host farmers from Maraca canyon, in his household where, together with his family, he produces vine and develops eco-tourism.

During preparation of the agenda we tried to incorporate all relevant topics with special emphasis on: difference on keeping and cultivating grape in Crmnica region and the canyon, local sorts of grapes and tourism offer with the aim of establishing short tour offer.

During the regular trainings there were 10 interested farmers for the exchange visit to Crmnica region. Interested farmers visited Godinje and enjoyed homemade specialties which were the gift from the hosting family.



The locals were introduced with best practices on raising and protection of grapevines and on organizing tourist offer inside the household.

As you can find in the Agenda our trainees visited exemplary vineyard where they could learn about minimal usage of pesticides and benefits of applying Recommendations given during the trainings.



Also producers had a chance to see how much effort it takes to organize tourist tour and how this household finds the way to attract the tourist.

Please find attached photos from the visit:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7tan4jnuo92gcdp/AACzhMMRZ8jCDNtF2P-9FIT5a?dl=0>

Component 3 (as stated in the approved proposal)

Promotion of tourist potentials and ecological products of Moraca kanyon

3.1 Website Moraca.me made with all touristic offer in the canyon by the end of 2015 and linked to CZIPs official website and local TO web

During the field visits to the site a lot of beautiful photos of canyon, birds and households were made.

Website consists of all general info about the canyon - position, biodiversity richness and potential for tourism offer. The website content is in Montenegrin and in English as well.

Please see the website on following web address:

<http://moracacanyon.me/index.php/>

Website is linked to CZIP's official website and will be linked to local TO website (at the moment their web is being redesigned so after they will link Moracacanyon.me)

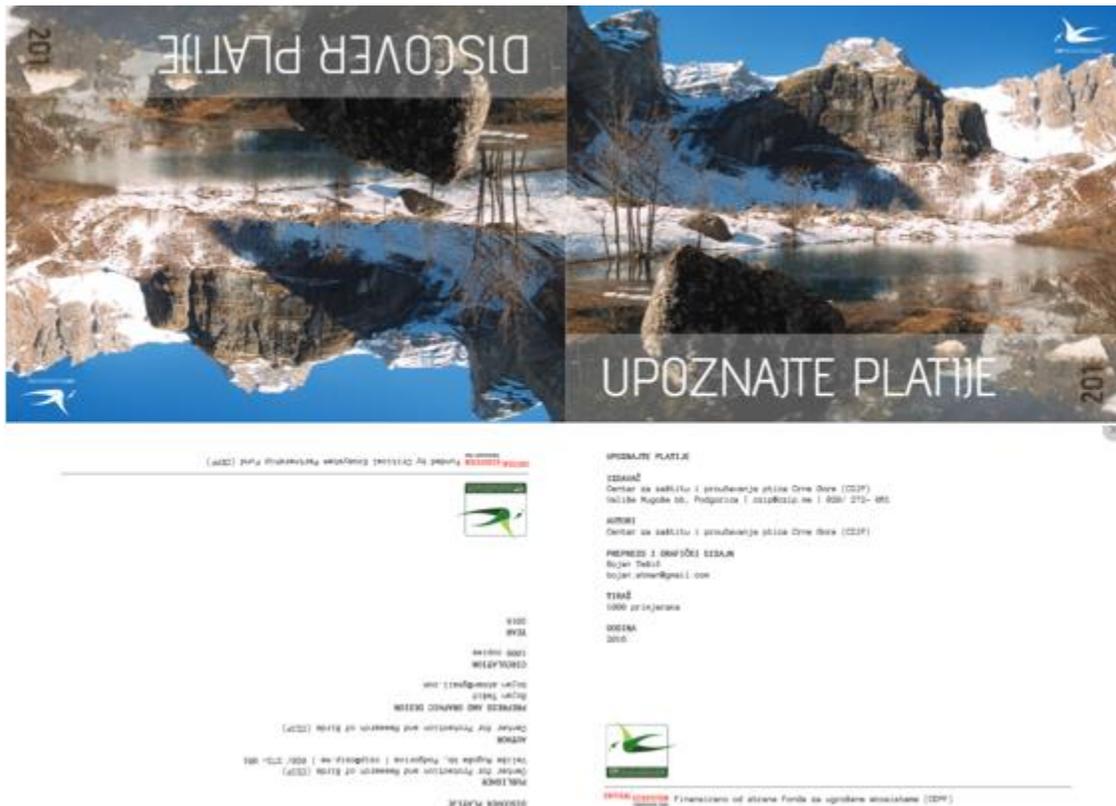
3.2 2000 brochures printed and distributed

The brochure has been designed and printed out. Please find it on following link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ise0u484fc7py8o/AAAi-rw_t4ALFFwshuBvVFraa?dl=0

It promotes beauty and importance of canyon's biodiversity, cultural monuments and agriculture.

1000 copies was delivered to TO Podgorica and 500 were delivered to other tourism agencies dealing with eco – tourism.



3.3 At least 5 households participated on festival "Vine and bleak", Virpazar

This activity has been replaced with organizing study tour for training participants to Peljesac - Croatian peninsula so called *empire of the vine*.

The reason for such change lies in fact that the organization of this fair was not clear at the moment when we should have organized participation of this activity beneficiaries.

On the other hand, vine producers we were working with are mostly smaller producers and festival generally did not cause special interest. Only two producers had sufficient quantity for the fair participation.

Local vine producers, in general do have tradition in warm hosting of guests so this new approach for the eco-tourism can create alternative livelihoods as a result of their common kindness and hospitality, so after organizing study visit to Crmnica the interest in tourism raised up among the farmers.



Agenda

Peljesac, 21 – 22.4.2016 year

I day, 21.4.2016	
7:00	Starting from Podgorica
11:30 – 13:00	Lunch, Stop
13:30	Meeting host
14:00 – 16:30	Visit to household Grgurović, Drače
17:00 – 19:30	Visit Grgić vinery, Trstenik
19:30	Accommodation check in
20:00	Dinner, Country household Antunović
II day, 22.4.2016	
8:30	Accommodation check out
8:45 – 9:45	Breakfast
10:00 – 12:30	Visit to household Palihnić, Kuna
13:00 – 15:30	Visit to Matuško vinery
16:00 – 17:00	Lunch
17:30 – 18:30	Visit to vineyards of autochthonic sort Dingač – owned by State
18:30	Late leaving to Podgorica

*Accommodation: Apartments Dalmatins, St. Eugena Kvarternika 9, Orebić

During market research of vine producer in Croatia, we have agreed that Peljesac is an excellent example of successful and sustainable vine producing. On peninsula known for good vine, almost every household has its own vinery. Some of them are just family business, some of them have extensive production, but almost all of them have a tourist offer and active promotion. We chose 4 producers with different approach:

1. Vinery Grgurovic – family household which strengthened their production with the tourism. From small (<http://vinagrgurevic.com/>)

2. Vinery Grgic - famous by name and one of the best location of the peninsula (<http://www.grgic-vina.com/>)

3. Household Palihnic – big producers of vine and olive oil, in initial phase of developing tourist offer (<http://peljeski-vinogradar.hr/>)

4. Vinery Matuško – one of the most famous vineries in Croatia and region of the Balkans – they have started from family business but nowadays they have huge vine basements and thousands of tourist visits (www.matusko-vina.hr)

During the organized trainings we emphasized many times to participants how popular the vine tourism has become, and how the beauty of Moraca Canyon can be promoted and used to attract

foreign tourists, what could provide additional income to locals. Few of them were quite interested into this idea but it seems to them as infeasible and non-applicable in Montenegro. After first visit to Godinje area, they realized that Montenegro can also attract this kind of tourists.

In the area of the canyon eco - tourism is not developed, especially when it comes to traditional household offers. Almost all of farmers involved in our training were interested to participate in study tour, but we chose 8 of them who were the most active in our program of trainings. During the two days long study visit to Peljesac, we visited 4 private vine producers and other vineyards owned by the State.

Please see more photos from the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wthwf6kkepw3y88/AAC-7NB6gixczBJdNxZTwl05a?dl=0>



3.4 Promotional billboards set for three months

Billboards were set on 15th Jun on period of three months during the summer season. Billboards were meeting travellers on northern and southern side of the road showing travelers that they are entering an area important for birds until 15th September 2015 year.



Component 4 (as stated in the approved proposal) Capacity building

4.1 Capacity building organized

Capacity building was organized with the aim to gain some practical experience from abroad that can be applicable to Montenegro and is related with integrated river basin management.

During Mid-term Assessment Regional Meeting in Ulcinj we met a lot of grantees having the similar problems related to this topic in their states. During project presentations special attention was drawn by described situation in Morocco, where living out of rivers is significantly different comparing to Montenegro. They use water for irrigation while Montenegro aims to use water as an energy resource.

For CZIP this trip was great experience for learning different ways of living, approaches to water resources and working with local communities. In phase of preparation of the study visit we contacted three organizations from Morocco, presenting them with our work, issues we are dealing with and the main expectations of the study visit. We had contacted: GREPOM - BirdLife Morocco, Rabat, AMEPN - Association Marocaine pour l'ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature, Rabat and GDF - Global Diversity Foundation, Marrakesh.

In Morocco three organizations were met and visited two national parks. Please find report of the visit at the following link Report about study visit:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0n2hn74nq4ksh7u/Morocco%20study%20visit%20report.pdf?dl=0>

4.2 Gathered knowledge used in more efficient realisation of project activities

As new experience applicable in Montenegro was gathered, we included some of examples in our educational program, as well as in work with local communities. Lecturing in the schools were organized as well as few workshops using interactive methods learned in Educational school in Ifrane. All together 5 workshops in the primary schools dedicated to the canyons. First two were organized in the local Primary school "18 oktobar" where pupils learned about the canyon diversity and dams influence on the nature.

Other workshops were held in the Primary school "29. Novembar" in the region of Cijevna river – other river in Podgorica threatened by potential dam construction.

Please see photos on the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/School%20workshops>

4.2.3 Maintaining contact and exchange of experience with the colleagues

Great relations were established with all visited organizations: GREPOM - BirdLife Morocco, Rabat AMEPN - Association Marocaine pour l'ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature, Rabat, GDF - Global Diversity Foundation, Marrakesh and High Atlas Foundation. It was agreed to consider and arrange some cross-visit from side of AMEPN and GDF.

Mr. Gerry Martin, the director of Global Diversity Foundation (GDF) contacted our team with the information that their team will probably organize study tour to Montenegro in October 2016. Unfortunately, this visit was not realised in this period but hopefully we will have opportunity to discuss further about some common topics, especially those related to work with local community where they have had many activities.

10. If you did not complete any component or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?

Even though Moraca canyon was not officially designated as IBA site many activities that were implemented affected public opinion and presented bird diverse of the canyon. It is clearly stated to decision maker and other stakeholders that designation of the canyon as IBA site is in the process. Furthermore, due to realization of Natura 2000 network establishment project this activity did not strongly affect overall project impact as currently Moraca valley is on the list of pre -selected areas for research under habitat directive and on the list of potential SPA sites thanks to CZIPs involvement in this process.

11. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results

Before alpine trails were marked Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was developed. The methodology of this document is based on the site investigations during the period of birds nesting in order to avoid the construction of climbing route in the nesting zone or disturbance of species that nest near the climbing routes.

For the purpose of this research a literature review was done. When proposed sites were received by MAK we had a clear idea on which of the area special attention should be paid.

For the researches was used 10k50 binoculars. Below the track, near the cliff line transect was conducted with the transect length 100 m.

After field research, form three proposed sites the most appropriate was chosen.

Benefits to Communities

12. Please describe the communities that have benefited from CEPF support

Please report on the size and characteristics of communities and the benefits that they have received, as a result of CEPF investment. Please provide information for all communities that have benefited **from project start to project completion**.

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
	Subsistence economy	Small landowners	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*	Size of Community				Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance	Improved access to ecosystem services
								50-250 people	251-500 people	501-1,000 people	Over 1,001 people									
Bioce	X	X						X						X				X		X
Medjurijecje	X	X						X						X				X		X
Manastir Moraca	X	X						X						X				X		X
Podgorica	X					X		X			X							X		X
Kolasin						X					X							X		X

*If you marked "Other" to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

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Lessons Learned

13. Describe any lessons learned related to organizational development and capacity building.

During the project lifetime organizational capacities were built in few different areas. One of the strongest capacity improvements was work with local communities and involvement of relative stakeholders in general. Of course, interesting point was also cooperation with NGOs and common and independent promotional activities.

Also we introduced new practice on cooperation with partners – signing agreements on cooperation. This turned out to be very useful and efficient tool. Therefore, before starting common work with partner association we prepared agreement on cooperation. Even though sometimes it would be very simple and just stating that two partner organizations are willing to work on activities for improving site status, it was show as excellent bases for future cooperation.

14. Describe any lessons learned related to project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

Even though we made research about specific topic before project proposal was designed there were some changes occurred from the real situation during the project implementation. Therefore, it is always appreciated to have some flexibility to adjust project proposal to situation in the field.

Also, as the project had significant influence on the raising awareness of locals, but citizens in general, it would be good if it was also at least partly focused on education of schoolers especially in the project area. During the final state of the project we organized workshops in schools on voluntary bases. Form this point of view good approach would be if we have predicted in budget some promotional materials such as t-shirts or mugs for the students with interesting and strong message.

15. Describe any lesson learned related to project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

During implementation of activities focused on work with local communities we had great experience by finding organization already directly connected with local stakeholders, such as Association of bee keepers, NVO Godinje and NVO Pokret za razvoj Rovaca) who helped us establish communication with target groups.

For many organizations/institutions at the beginning it was strange that our organization named *Center for Protection and Research of Birds* is dealing with something what is not directly connected to the field investigation. Good example was Association of bee keepers – even though they were happy and satisfied when we approached them explaining our idea, they did not understand what the connection of birds and honey producers is. The similar situation was with local households in Moraca canyon, it was a bit tricky to explain our engagement on the activities related to the agriculture. As in Montenegro there is no good policies and cooperation of relevant governmental institutions, nature protection and agriculture are not seen as interdependent activities. The space for understanding was left, so we did not push canyon conservation from the very begging. Many times building of dams was unofficially discussed and influence on their households was pointed. When farmers started feeling benefits and were satisfied with our

cooperation and support, during second season, we started explaining more intensively negative influence on the canyon and their livelihood. At the end we believe we gained partners (mostly, some of them may stay neutral) in future fight against dams.

16. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

N.A

Sustainability / Replication

17. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated

Project sustainability is ensured in component dealing with strengthening economy of local community through new system for water use and advisory service what ensured better protection of the water flowing and better agricultural results with less use of chemicals. Moreover, it should be mentioned that this project has initiated new vineyard planting – one of vine producers, who was participating in the trainings, was encouraged to seed new vineyard. Earlier he gave up from this idea as he was convinced that dams will be built so his work will stay useless, but as he saw that there are still individuals and organizations fighting against it and believing that Moraca will remain free river he decided to increase his plantation. One of the reasons was also opportunity to be supported with dripping system.

From the report of Association of beekeepers we were informed that there is also good feedback from the beekeepers awarded in first season. Unfortunately, one household had a problem as their bees have “runaway”, and they are left with one bee community. On the other hand, we were informed that 4 other beekeepers have had success with strengthening their work – they “filled” all 4 be haves they were awarded and two of them even gained additional bee communities. As for the beekeepers awarded in 2016 we will have feedback on their work in 2017 on spring when next visit to them will be organized.

Also marked alpine routes, informative tables, billboard and other promotional activities lead to successful raising awareness and waking interest of locals to be involved in program and to be informed about future activities.

Outdoor club members, who were in charge for trails marking obliged them-selves to organize traditionally the exam for trainees taking part in their spring course. On this way trails and canyon will be continuously promoted.

TO Podgorica is willing to continue with canyon promotion and are waiting for new initiatives.

Capacity building of CZIP staff, knowledge gathered by exchange of experience was used during and will be used after project lifetime.

18. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability

As contribution to the project activities Foundation Perovic Njegos supported subvention to young beekeepers for the second season of awarding. Likely, this cooperation is going to be continued after the project as well.

Safeguards

19. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social and environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered

Presence of CZIP team in canyon during the monitoring of birds reduced illegal killing and potentially influenced on decrease of other illegal activities as grave exploitation, especially taking care on camera use all the time and possibility to be photographed.

By announcing information about planned subventions for 2016 year for beekeepers, young population was encouraged to stay in village.

Ensuring mentoring for subsidized beekeepers in next five years will ensure better quality and sustainability in honey production.

During the preparation of EIA for alpine trails we asked Outdoor Club (MAK) not to suggest only one cliff, for which we should prepare EIA, but a list of all the rocks that they find suitable for marking directions. Thanks to this approach during the preparation of EIA, the researches has not been done only for one location but for half of the canyon as a study shows.

The preparation of the study also helped to choose locations for setting info tables, taking care that positions are good for tourists – they can enjoy the view on the canyon and birds but without any negative impact on environment. Also due to the fact that the canyon is narrow and that the completion of the canyon is very tortuous, we took care that the tables are set in places that are the safest for the tourists. Within the trainings we are organizing for the vine keepers in the canyon one of the issues was reduction of the use of pesticides, so we bought precise scales for the training participants and emphasized the negative influence on nature that use of the pesticides have. This activity decreased negative influence on environment.

The regular training has educed use of pesticides and increased level of awareness on importance of farming local species, what was also emphasized during visit to Peljesac.

The Letter of Concern was prepared and sent to Montenegrin and Slovenian Chamber of Commerce as the warning on negative impact of this investments not only on nature, but also on local economy.

Additional Funding

20. Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Foundation Petrovic Njegos	A	1650 eur	/
Housing Agency	A	150eur	/

* Categorize the type of funding as:

- A *Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B *Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*

- C *Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

Additional Comments/Recommendations

21. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

Here we would like inform about some additional activity which was not originally planned in project proposal:

- a) Promotional bicycling ride, organized together with NGO Bickilo.me which was attended by few hundreds of citizens. Last year we initiated action with Bickilo.me association "Cycling in honor of Moraca river". Bickilo.me organizes "Critical mass" action every last Friday each month with some specific topic. This one was organized in honor of the river Moraca and few hundreds of people were presented the Project and activities in the canyon. Please see some photos on following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kj4xr205ch4xf2k/AAAVuKwVcdYuVOYQIj2Pzei4a?dl=0>

as well as on official Facebook page of the Association:

https://www.facebook.com/365782963464079/photos/?tab=album&album_id=973907652651604

At the end of the action, we awarded the youngest activists with CZIP promotion materials.

- b) We also supported action "Balkan Rivers Tour" in which kayaks from the whole Europe, under the leadership of Rok Rozman, made a tour on rivers from Slovenia to Albania in order to promote the importance of conservation of last wild rivers in Europe. We prepared invitation together with Bickilo.me on the Facebook page, as well as on the portals and newspapers, please see the following:

<http://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/posmatranje-na-moraci-i-pedalanje-do-duklje-885516>

and: <https://www.facebook.com/events/153315815066526/>

- c) It was planned to organize cycling tour from Zeta to Morača, where the remains of the city Dolcea are placed. This invitation was promoted on CZIP's web and Facebook page, Bickilo.me Facebook page and on some informational web portals, such as Vijesti (the most popular portal in country):

<http://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/posmatranje-na-moraci-i-pedalanje-do-duklje-885516>

Unfortunately, this event was not organized due to strong rain which started at the morning when the cycling was planned, but still it we see this event influencing and raising awareness of Moraca canyon importance as important bird area.

- d) After the articles in newspapers related to potential future investments of Slovenian and Montenegrin Chamber of Commerce were published. CZIP, together with DOPPS Slovenia prepared official Letter which was delivered to both Montenegrin and Slovenian Chamber of Commerce, as well as to the Slovenian Embassy to Montenegro. With this letter we explained canyon's richness of biodiversity and future risk, as well as negative influence, which could occur in case of dam building on the river. The special attention was paid to bird and fish species. We also gave clear overview on level of protection of different species and explained what it means in terms of international protection.

Please see the Letter on the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/eujwhoy63kme04e/AAB3qZQ2RpMytGSXVI5IU3mCa?dl=0>

After this we were invited by the Montenegrin Chamber of Commerce for the meeting. On this meeting representatives of Chamber explained that their role is just to connect Government with potential investors, not to make decision where investments will be done. Even though the Chamber has a special sector for environment, the level of understanding negative impacts on nature is very low, so we agreed to organize a set of training and to inform future investors on problems of some ideas for investments in Montenegro. It was already discussed with the NATURA 2000 project team and agreed that in the frame of that project business sector including Chamber of commerce will be one of the training target groups.

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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