

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

17.06.2020.

CEPF Grant 110831

Grantee

Center for Karst and Speleology, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Project Title

Distribution, population and status of threats to the biodiversity of freshwater snails of the family *Hydrobiidae*, Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Project Location

Bosnia and Herzegovina

KBA: Trebižat Basin; Neretva river delta and related springs / lakes including Hutovo Blato; Livanjsko polje and Buško lake; Mostarsko blato; Popovo polje and Trebišnjica river

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Center for Karst and Speleology
2. Grant title: Distribution, population and status of threats to the biodiversity of freshwater snails of the family Hydrobiidae, Bosnia & Herzegovina.
3. Grant number: xxxx
4. Grant amount (US dollars): 22.500.
5. Proposed dates of grant: 01.06.2020.
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Bosnia and Herzegovina.
7. Date of preparation of this document: 17.06.2020.

8. **Introduction:** The project is focused on aquatic snails from the family Hydrobiidae as a significant element of the aquatic fauna of springs and small streams. Given the modest knowledge about aquatic snails, research will certainly contribute to increasing the biodiversity of all KBAs. In addition to the species themselves, they will investigate water quality and habitat threats. We will inform the local community about all the results through exhibitions, lectures, direct contacts. We will also present all the results to the local authorities. An endangerment proposal will be made for all snail species in accordance with IUCN standards. Student volunteers will also be involved in the work of the project team in order to strengthen the capacity of researchers.

9. **Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities:** The project is at the very beginning and the activities that have been carried out so far are the collection of existing literature and previous activities related to the procurement of equipment.

10. **Project Stakeholders:** Students will be involved in the implementation of the project, and the local community and municipal authorities will be informed about all project results, including, species, water quality, threats to habitats, actions to eliminate threats, possible benefits for the local community. We will prepare special programs for primary school students in the KBA area. The scientific community will be informed about the results of the project through professional and scientific articles at conferences and publication in journals. All data will also be available on our website.

11. **Stakeholder Engagement Program:** We will prepare a workshop for students with the necessary educational materials and practical work in the field. We will organize educational exhibitions and lectures for primary school students. A leaflet will be printed with text on the importance and significance of water snails as a bioindicator of water quality. We intend to inform the local community and local authorities in the area of KBA with periodic reports, and at the end of the project with the final report to inform the entity ministries of environment. We will inform the general public about possible new species, which we certainly expect considering the level of research, through portals and social networks. We will certainly inform the scientific public about the progress of the project through posters or lectures at conferences in the region.

12. **Consultation methods:** We intend to conduct public meetings and direct interviews with the local community with the owners of the land on which the springs are located. Working together with local authorities on thematic meetings.

13. **Other Engagement Activities:** We will try to initiate the use of our discoveries in the local community in the development of local brands related to clean water, including educational tourism and agritourism.

14. **Timetable:** At this stage of the project, a workshop with students will be in late June or early July. Activities at the local level will take place during the research at each KBA separately, depending on the field situation. We certainly plan to stick to the schedule according to the Implementation Plan, but also the development of the situation in the context of coronavirus, especially in working with schools.
15. **Resources and Responsibilities:** Team staff are responsible for implementing the Stakeholder Engagement plan, especially the team leader. These activities are planned to take place within the framework of field work, so the budget for these activities is included in the part: Travel and special events and part of the activities of each team member (part Consultancies and Professional Services).
16. **Grievance mechanism:** Stakeholders in the project objectives will be informed about the grievance mechanism through a statement in the official languages of BiH, on the website of the Center for Karst and Speleology, as well as at the end of each periodic report that we send to local authorities. The statement will list all contacts via e-mail and telephone numbers of the Karst and Speleology Center with the obligation: “We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.”
17. **Monitoring and Reporting:** We will inform the local community and local authorities in writing about all the results of the project within two months. If it is a serious threat to the habitat, we will inform the local community immediately during the research, and local authorities and entity ministries upon return from the field via e-mail. All results will be disseminated via our web address within 7 days of returning from the field.