

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	NGO Green Home
Project Title:	Engaging civil societies in harmonization of actions for improving the conservation and management effectiveness of Lake Skadar
Date of Report:	05.03.2012.
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CEPF Region: Skadar Lake, Southwest Balkans, Mediterranean

Strategic Direction: 3. Improve the conservation and protection status of 44 priority key biodiversity areas

Grant Amount: 19,375 USD

Project Dates: 05.12.2012/05.03.2013.

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

The Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (CEED) as a partner organisation, participated in preparation of the Workshop agenda. CEED coordinate first communication with participants and CEPF RIT to agree at the issues, timing for presentation of the Letter of inquiry and gather feedback and comments for workshop agenda.

University of Donja Gorica participated in technical organisation of the workshop as in creating brief projects overview already implemented or ongoing at Skadar geographical area.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

Project supported identification of priority problems and actions that should be undertake on Skadar Lake as KBA and creation of roadmap for funding strategy for CEPF Mediterranean ecosystem profile.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

The activities organized under the project resulted in:

- i) Improved knowledge and information with the CEPF funding strategy and requirements for the full project proposals development;
- ii) Identified priority problems and actions that should be undertaken in future;
- iii) First steps for further actions planned and established project partnerships among NGOs and different stakeholders groups;
- iv) Discussed and harmonized actions and different stakeholders engaged including NGOs in activities for improving the conservation and management effectiveness of Lake Skadar and
- v) Improved knowledge of CSOs and managers about mainstreaming sustainable development concept in practice into very similar area of Mikri Prespa Lake.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: Not relevant

Species Conserved: Not relevant

Corridors Created: Not relevant

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

Main objective of the project was improving common understanding among NGOs, institutions and local citizens about environmental problems and needs at the Skadar Lake as well to merge and straightforward the efforts of all stakeholders to tackle priority issues on Skadar Lake.

This objective was realized through two different activities: 1) workshop which involved different stakeholders groups to work together in harmonization of actions for improving the conservation and management effectiveness of Lake Skadar and 2) The Study which provided to the participants better understanding and gathering practical experiences about good nature based management practices.

Main outputs from the project include:

- Most important conservation and management priority actions for the Skadar Lake are identified;
- Three agreed priorities are developed in Lol and submitted to the CEPF granting programme and
- Ideas for potential new project proposals based on Mikri Prespa lake example and knowledge gained during the Study visit.

Other outputs related to the full reports, presentations, handouts, brainstorming outputs and photos could be found:

- For the Component 1 and Workshop for interested groups:
https://www.dropbox.com/home/CEPF%20Skadar%20Lake%20workshop_17.12.2012
- For the Component 2 and Study visit:
https://www.dropbox.com/home/CEPF%20Prespa%20Lake%20Study%20visit_18_20.12.2012

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

No unexpected impacts were occurred during project lifetime.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned: Organizing workshops for interested groups:

Main objective of the workshop is to involve different stakeholders groups and engage CSOs in harmonization of actions for improving the conservation and management effectiveness of Lake Skadar.

In order to reach this, Green Home, CEED and UDG will organize a one-day workshop for two stakeholders groups: 1) national and international organizations that expressed a willingness to work on Skadar Lake (CEPF applicants) and/or with long working experience within the Skadar lake area (World Bank, GIZ, UN agencies, REC, Montenegrin and Albanian NGOs) 2) Governmental institutions and site managers from both Albanian and Montenegrin side (National parks of Montenegro, Lake National Park and Scutari regional park, Ministries responsible for environmental protection and water management).

At the end of the day, following expected outcomes should be provided: a) A comprehensive understanding of the Skadar Lake past investments and shortfalls; current management situation with list of the most evident biodiversity threats and its related impact, b) All conservation and management priorities of Lake Skadar are identified at local, regional and national levels and the level of CEPF's and c) Common Understanding for the CEPF investment strategy and level of CEPF interventions in the lake at policy and onsite management levels.

Component 1 Actual at Completion: Organized workshop for interested groups:

Following the realisation of the project Green Home and partners organized a two-day workshop to involve CSOs and synchronise various conservation and nature based management actions planned by different stakeholder groups at Skadar Lake area. The workshop helped to the participants to get acquainted with the funding strategy and requirements of the CEPF, but also to identify priority problems and actions that should be undertaken, who analyzed, planned and possible partnerships among organizations.

Total number of presented participants was 28 and includes representatives of various interested groups: NGOs, Ministry of Tourism and Sustainable Development, Public entity national parks of Montenegro and Skadar Lake national Park, Water Directorate, Environmental protection Agency, Universities, national and international NGOs, UNDP, GIZ. Two persons from CEPF facilitated whole process.

The workshop was opened by welcoming words of Mr. Goran Skataric, director of National Park Skadar Lake and institution which hosted the event and Mr. John Watkin, one of the Grant directors of CEPF. Afterwards, participants introduced themselves, while explaining briefly their role at the meeting or interests which bring them to the workshop.

In the introduction, Mr. John Watkin presented CEPF investment strategy and Ecosystem Profile Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot, explaining that this document is most important for further planning of actions for the organizations which submit project proposals, as it contains rapid assessment of biodiversity hotspots and priority areas in the Mediterranean with identified overall conservation targets, major threats, as well as funding gaps and opportunities, used by CEPF as a background for investments within the region and key biodiversity areas.

Mrs. Marija Vugdelic, University of Donja Gorica, presented short overview of the projects implemented so far in Skadar Lake region, starting with early initiatives since the '80s and first foundations laid by the REC's project "Promotion of networks and exchanges in countries of SEE" in the period 2000-2006. She mentioned most important projects at national, regional and transboundary level, with the stated objectives and the main outputs produced, for example: Integrated Monitoring and Research of Lake Skadar (Scientific network of Universities from Albania, Montenegro, Germany and Austria, 2002-2006), DRIMON - Interdisciplinary assessment of water resources management in two transboundary lakes in SEE (MNE, AL, BiH, Norway), 2006-2009, Cross-boundary spatial planning Lake Shkoder/Skadar Region (GIZ, 2006-2010), Lake Integrated Ecosystem Management Project (LSIEMP, MORT through World Bank, 2008-2012), Integrated management of Skadar Lake ecosystem – EMA plan (Green Home, 2007-2013), Sharing waters (WWF/Green Home, 2009-2010), Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity at Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Shkodra/Skadar (CSBL, GIZ, 2012-2014), Towards a Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserve of Skadar Lake (Green Home, 2013-2014) etc.



Following Skadar Lake projects review, Mr. **Zoran Mrdak**, Public Entity National Parks of Montenegro, presented shortfalls and priorities for future sustainable development of Skadar Lake area. Special attention he devoted to the overcoming bad practices of projects and activities overlapping (i.e. socio-economic analyse done by different methodologies, but reaching at the end same results). Also, he stressed the need to follow up on the activities already implemented in the previous projects, or on the implementation of the new activities already recognized through management plans of national park.

Workshop followed with the presentation of Mr. **Novak Cadjenovic** about Lake Skadar Integrated Ecosystem Management Project, explaining situation at the Lake before the project is implemented especially in terms of

transboundary cooperation and existing institutional structures, monitoring program, biodiversity assessments and public awareness campaigns etc. He presented most important achievements of this project, such as:

- 1) Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis with Action Plan (SAP) for Lake Skadar-Shkoder has been prepared;
- 2) Bilateral Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of Skadar-Shkodra Lake was endorsed by respective Albanian and Montenegrin Ministries of Environment (2008)
- 3) high-level Skadar-Shkodra Lake Commission, its Secretariat and 4 joint Working Groups were established and put into operation with the aim to monitor implementation of strategic documents drawn by the two parties for the conservation and management of the Lake;
- 4) Preparation of joint management and monitoring documents for Lake Shkodra etc.



According to the agenda, the second part of the day was devoted to priorities' identification with the facilitation of Mr. **John Watkin**. Mr. Watkin proposed not to present the Letters of Inquiry (LoI) from the first and second round of CEPF call, as it was originally planned in the agenda, but to discuss the problems and priority actions to be undertaken and to plan new proposals to submit to the CEPF call.

Participants were invited to work in three groups to discuss and identify most important problems/issues that need to be improved. After this, all recognized issues were put in next table:

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strong raising and education campaign targeted by the specific areas in collaboration with numerous of stakeholders 2. Economic and tourism sustainable development (infrastructure projects following the procedure established under protection sites - Ramsar) 3. Establishing of fishing farms and trade market on Montenegrin side especially determining the fishing quotes 4. Revitalization of previously established working groups on both sides of the lake 5. Developed management plans on river basin levels 6. Having legal measures and tools to place in force adopted laws and signed agreements 7. Law enforcement (Education of judicial system on criminal law related to crimes against environment, developing guidelines for police officers on the field of illegal activities, prosecution adequate processing of criminal cases and finally trainings for the judges) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance the implementation of the management plans <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Law enforcement (controlling and patrolling); b. Controlling of the departure points for tourism, fishing, etc. into the lake c. Awareness and information campaign d. Infrastructure investment for the better management e. Human capacity building process f. Protected areas management skill for the management authorities g. Sustainable fishery, h. Sustainable tourism, i. Communication 2. Engagement and integration of the local community for the management of the area <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Development of sustainable economy tools (green economy, etc), b. Improve the eco-tourism offer of the region c. Final agreement of the zonation system, 3. Monitoring and management of data <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop an Integrated Environmental Information Management System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of the existing management plan - Protection of pelican habitats - Lack of involvement of local community into developing management plan and implementation - Awareness about zonation - Capacities of local fishermen associations - Illegal hunting, overfishing - Disturbance from tourism industry, no adequate regulation for boat roads (existing laws/awareness/implementation) - Potential ideas for regulation of Bojana river, otherwise the Lake can be drained (Project proposed by two Academies of Science) - Lack of integrated income generation activities - Lack of political will - Low capacities at local level/management and administration - Difference of the status of NP from border sides (ALB and MNE) - Priority should be protection of all species (stand point of the National Park) - Ecological protection - Local community involvement(including cooperation with Albania) - Increase public awareness about

	<p>b. Organization of the gathering and data maintain;</p>	<p>importance of local communities involvement in decision making process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening the cooperation between two countries - Zoning of the Skadar Lake border, narrow and wider area - Sustainable use of Lake resources - Sustainable fishery on the Lake - Involvement of local communities - Regulation of function of fish way which prevent migration of fish (dams on Bojana) - Water management - Communal waste disposal (pollution issues) - Many projects not consolidated - No mechanisms for implementation - Narrow view of the management plan - No space related data (GIS system), to improve the management - Zoning of the Skadar Lake border, narrow and wider area - Scadar Lake basin management plan (flood protection, water protection and usage) - Local community involvement in developing management plan and its implementation - Public awareness on sustainable income generation based on the Skadar lake resources - Integrated local economy development (value-chains development/cluster development; link between tourism and agriculture).
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These issues were merged, simplified and put on charts whereas participants voted for the priority ones. As a result next list of broad priorities was developed, while first nine choose for further actions planning.

PRIORITY THEME	VOTES
Community Based Natural Resource Management	13
Law enforcement	10
Education	8
Implementation of the Management Plan	8
Protected Area Management	7
Pelicans / Key species	7
Infrastructure	6
Income/Livelihood Issues	6
Illegal activities	5
Zonation	5

Coordination between AL and MN and within each country	4
Integrated River Basin Management	4
Fisheries Management	4
Monitoring and data management	4
Awareness	3
Migration	3
Tourism	2
Human Capacity	2
Water management	2
Waste management	1
Disturbance	1
Communication	0
Political will/Advocacy	0
Trade issues	0

At second day of the workshop participated 13 persons. Day started with the introduction of the new participants (University of Colorado) and a brief review of the main points and conclusions from the first day led by Mr. **John Watkin**. Three priority actions were identified by the working groups and selected for potential CEPF funding.

In addition, Mr. Watkin, presented instructions on procedure for submitting Lols to CEPF and related timeframe. Participants continued working in groups for the development of Lols and project proposals based on their expertise, field of work and interest;

As from both days of the workshops, presentations and discussions done, participants agreed on following **conclusions**:

- Most important conservation and management priority actions for the Skadar lake are identified, out of three are agreed among participants to be potentially funded. These actions are following:
- Support to the transboundary management of Skadar Lake (organizations participated in group work INCA, IUCN, GH, PAs)
- Key Biodiversity species protection: Pelicans (organizations participated in group work Natural Science Museum, Noe, TdV, EuroNatur, EPA)
- Community based natural resources management (organizations participated in group work CEED, UDG, University of Colorado, WWF)
 - ✓ Timeframe for further procedure for submitting Lols to the CEPF which should be respected is following:
 - ✓ Lols should be submitted by organizations till January 31st
 - ✓ Feedback will be given in 7 days by CEPF
 - ✓ Organizations will have 6 weeks to develop the full proposal
 - ✓ Contract signing could be expected by June 2013.

Component 2 Planned:

Main aim of the Study visit is to improve knowledge of CSOs and managers about mainstreaming sustainable development concept in practice into very similar area of Mikri Prespa Lake.

The Study visit will be organized at Prespa Lake in collaboration with [Society for the protection of Prespa](#), and it will be timely connected with the workshop. Study visit will help in better understanding and gathering practical experiences about good management practices, whereas participants will have opportunity to see how specific components of integrated ecosystem based management work in practice. Issues which will be elaborated during the visit include: 1) collaboration of management authorities at transboundary level (Albania, Macedonia and Greece) and legal set up 2) planning and implementation of the actions for priority species and habitats (zonation, monitoring systems, infrastructure etc.) 3) cooperation in fisheries, agriculture and water management in the basin of Lake Prespa, 4) the implementation of the trilateral tourism strategy, etc. Issues during the Study visit will be presented both with civil organisations and local managers. Same participants as from the meeting will be invited for this activity too.

Finally, expected outcome of the workshop will be improved knowledge of a better model of sustainable development in a very similar area (the Mikri Prespa lake example).

Component 2 Actual at Completion: the Study visit was organized at Prespa Lake

The Study visit was organized at Prespa Lake in collaboration with Society for the Protection of Prespa, and provided to the participants better understanding and gathering practical experiences about good nature conservation and management practices. Issues elaborated during the visit include: 1) collaboration of management authorities at transboundary level (Albania, Macedonia and Greece) and legal set up 2) planning and implementation of the actions for priority species and habitats (monitoring systems, infrastructure etc.) and 3) cooperation in fisheries, agriculture and water management in the basin of Lake Prespa etc.

At the end of the workshop participants were expected to have 1) Improved knowledge of a better model of sustainable development and management practices at the Mikri Prespa lake 2) Discussed similarities and differences in those practices comparing Prespa and Skadar lake 3) Worked on identification of positive management practices and initiatives which could be replicated to the Skadar lake.

Total number of presented participants was 31 from Montenegro, Greece, Albania and Macedonia and includes representatives of national and international NGOs (including those which submitted Lol for CEPF granting in 2nd call), National parks of Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia, Montenegrin Environmental protection Agency, Natural Museum, UNDP and others. Two persons from CEPF facilitated whole process.

Study visit was set up in four components: 1) Integrated Ecosystem Management, 2) Transboundary monitoring, 3) Institutional transboundary cooperation and 4) local livelihoods. Under each of them several presentations were done.

Related to this several field trips were organized: Visit to Prespa National Park Management Body (Greece) and Information Centre, Visit to "Pelekanos" cooperative of bean farmers and field trip to Mikri Prespa lake and the Koula sluice gate.

1) Integrated Ecosystem Management

At the beginning workshop was opened by Mrs. Myrsini Malakou, a first presentation was given by Ms. Natasa Kovacevic, NGO Green Home about main facts and transboundary issues in Skadar lake area. In addition, Ms. Malakou presented similar overview of Prespa management practices, actors and relevant issues. It was explained how situation at Mikri Prespa had been changed in last 20 years and which factors brought positive changes to the sustainable development practices. SPP create first working base through identification of the Mikri Prespa Lake values and prioritizing them and make these values common for all actors. Existing sustainable practices with locals were kept (raising reed meadows, cattle breeding practices etc.). The linking of SPP's efforts with traditional ecological knowledge influenced conservation efforts in the area significantly, in fact more than expected.

Socio-economic situation in Greek Prespa and SPP efforts was presented by Ms. Fotini Vakitsidou, Society for the Protection of Prespa. Ms. Vakitsidou explained economy and social picture at Prespa lake in 70's and late 80's, when natural environment deteriorated significantly, certain development started to happen while protection of the area considered as an obstacle to development. In addition, she presented activities on

promotion of multiparticipatory management schemes, ecotourism, environmental friendly agriculture, local architectural heritage and environmental education.

2) Transboundary monitoring

Development of Transboundary Monitoring System was presented by Mr. Miltos Gletsos, TMS project coordinator, from SPP. He gave short overview of the projects related to the transboundary environmental monitoring realized so far (Regional GEF/ UNDP project; KfW and other donors) and TMS project (2007 – 2011 funded by WWF-Greece/ MAVVA) realized by PPCC together with SPP and Tour du Valat, France as Technical Advisor. He mentioned some of the important project outputs i.e. Expert Study on the TMS (2008-09), Pilot application (2010-11) and Adjustment of the TMS (2011-12) which are available at: http://www.spp.gr/monitoring_en.

Experiences on integrated ecosystem management practice and fully synchronised counts OF wintering waterbirds in The Prespa Lake, was presented by Mr. Metodija Veleviski, Macedonian Ecological Society. He explained which indicators for counting population of wintering waterbirds and standardized counting points in all 3 littoral countries were used and presented results of decreasing and increasing presence of bird species within period of 15yrs (46993 ± 7436 for the period 1997-2000 and $39089 \pm$ for the period 2010-2012).

Following to presentations, with support of SPP a field trip was organised to the Koula sluice gate which controls the flow of water from Lake Mikri Prespa to Lake Megali Prespa and was completely rebuilt as part of the Life-Nature project (2000-2006). Through the appropriate operation of the modernised sluice gate it is possible to ensure that both the ecological and human needs of the area are adequately satisfied.

3) Institutional transboundary cooperation

After the study trip Ms. Vivi Roumeliotou from SPP presented Overview of institutional transboundary cooperation at Prespa Lakes region including brief rationale on Prespa National Park, Greece Ramsar site, Mt. Pelister NP, Mt. Galicica NP FYR of Macedonia, Ezerani Nature Park, and Monuments of Nature etc. She presented working and collaboration platform which included Informal PPCC: Ministries of Environment, local authorities and NGOs from the three countries and Secretariat: three members appointed by the participating NGOs which seats at SPP offices in Prespa. He elaborated main Prespa Park Activities. Considering the lessons learned he noted that transboundary cooperation, trust and consensus building, required patience and persistence; they did not happen overnight and that participation of local stakeholders and related capacity building activities were indispensable for the implementation of any joint decision or management measure. Similar perspective was presented by Galicica NP and Mr. Andon Bojadzi. He explained process and components of a partnership agreement - Oteshevo (2001) on development and support of co-operation between Galicica and Prespa National Parks, as well as objectives which included several important skills and experience exchange points i.e National Park Administration, Development of Management Plans, Joint monitoring of Greek Juniper forest in the area of Precna Planina on the border between the two National Parks etc.



Next presentation about Transboundary water cooperation was done by Ms. Vivi Roumeliotou. She presented critical water issues in the Prespa basin such as extensive irrigation systems in Greece & FYR of Macedonia (50's–90's), diversion of Devolli river into Albanian part of Micro Prespa ('70s), industrial, urban sewage (FYR of Macedonia) etc. She presented important problems linked to ecological degradation of the Southern end of Micro Prespa, lack of appropriate water management, significant water level drop in L. Macro, pollution of both lakes/ algal blooms etc.

4) Local livelihoods

The second day of the study visit workshop started with the introduction of National and transboundary protection and local livelihoods by Mr. Pece Cvetanovski, Public Institution National Park Pelister. Mr. Cvetanovski presented Sustainable collection and certification of Blueberries (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) in National

Park Pelister, controlled NTFP harvesting practice which was ongoing on a small scale by local explained a system of issuing permits, registration of harvesters, control and certification issues.

Presentation on Experimental reed harvesting for energy production at Lake Micro Prespa, Prespa NP, Albania was done by Mr. Olsi Duma from Prespa National Park Albania. He presented results of the project "Assessment of Appropriate Reed Management by Experimental Reed Harvest" and experimental reed harvesting at Prespa Lake which was done in period February/March 2012.

Operationalizing the "Ezerani" protected area experiences, lessons learned and next steps was presented by Mr. Naum Tashovski, Municipality of Resen/competent authority for Ezerani Natural Park. Firstly Mr. Tashovski presented Prespa lake ecosystem with its natural values, hydrology, transboundary character and threats at the lake. In addition, he presented management challenges related to the conversion of natural land for development purposes (drainage), degradation of the riparian corridor, canalization of river delta in 1998 & incision processes as well as wetland restoration strategies.



Role of civil society in setting up a functional management system, at a national and transboundary level was presented by Mrs. Myrsini Malakou, SPP. She presented strengths and weaknesses of NGOs also taking SPP example.

In addition participants visited premises of Prespa National Park Management Body (GR) and Information Centre and heard about its work, plans and activities realized in previous years. Even with modest financial possibilities, NP organises certain activities and during days of the visit art exhibition of local artist was presented, that participants had opportunity to acquaint with. Following this, a visit was organised to premises of Society for Protection of Prespa.

In second part of the day participants visited "Pelekanos" cooperative of bean farmers which was initiated by SPP in 1992, starting with promoting organic bean cultivation in Prespa, advising producers on issues of cultivation and certification etc. In 2009 a project to create a 'Product of the Prespa Park Protected Area' label was completed. In local bean factory participants had opportunity to hear and learn more about how cooperative was developed and empowered through the years. A production line for selection of the beans by its quality was presented while participants had opportunity to work manually with rest of workers at the place.

As a final and within wrap up session participants were invited to share their opinion on most important/interesting ideas or approaches that they acquaint during the study visit and heard in these two days concerning integrated ecosystem management/ transboundary collaboration and two most interesting possible initiatives that participants could undertake in Skadar lake area. Ideas were discussed and named in plenary.

From two days of the workshops, presentations and discussions done following **conclusions** are made:

- Mikri Prespa Lake is a great model how sustainable development at transboundary can be mainstreamed in nature conservation and generation of the local incomes.
- Great level of collaboration at transboundary and local level, as well as participation and active involvement of all interested stakeholders, including NGOs was shaped during the last 20 yrs. Reaching the same level of cooperation at Skadar lake is possible but in a long run, as it is much bigger and more settled with local communities, with full range of different interests which are present at local and state level.
- Transboundary cooperation, trust and consensus building, require patience and persistence; they do not happen overnight and that participation of local stakeholders and related capacity building activities are indispensable for the implementation of any joint decision or management measure.
- Skadar Lake today is where Mikri Prespa was before 20 yrs, when it comes to fragmented plans and programmes, as well as weak protected area structures, legal enforcement and collaboration with local communities. In order to reach meaningful transboundary management and nature conservation level, it is needed that one independent, locally based entity/organization act continuously at: 1) pushing for merging and implementation all existing plans/programs 2) working with local communities to participate in decision making and merge efforts of all interested groups for sustainable development and nature

conservation 3) supporting legal enforcement and 4) gathering/merging/supporting/ensuring use of different projects outputs with key actors and its foreseen following up activities.

- Strong will and commitment of locally based independent entity/organisation is a key precondition for building joint platform, mentioned above. Locally based organisation, engaged at the field on a daily basis can provide great results in connecting with local population and ensuring the principle of integrated ecosystem management.
- It is important to use traditional knowledge and people's know-how in management planning. New management practices could be unfriendly received by local communities, while adjusted and old ones could be more easily accepted i.e. using buffaloes for harvesting reeds. Although activities based on traditional knowledge are indisputable, those practices should be assessed from the scientific point of view as sustainable.



Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

No

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

- In order to ensure project acceptance, endorsement by various stakeholders, and sustainability of results, it is necessary to have a high level of stakeholder participation
- locally based organisations should be catalytic in the mutual understanding and exchange of experience and knowledge between different partners
- Coordination between projects that treat the same/similar topics this should be significantly improved in order to avoid duplication, strengthen the impact and ensure endorsement of the outputs
- Transboundary and national structures already set up should be used in further actions development at Skadar Lake, including operational and regulatory capacity, infrastructure and community level mechanisms and incentives which are in place to support further natural resource management and sustainable tourism development.
- It is important to follow up on the activities which implementation was already started in previous projects, or to implement new activities which are already recognized through management plans for Skadar Lake area.
- Great level of collaboration at transboundary and local level, as well as participation and active involvement of all interested stakeholders at Skadar lake is possible but needs a long run
- Transboundary cooperation, trust and consensus building, require patience and persistence; they do not happen overnight and that participation of local stakeholders and related capacity building activities are indispensable for the implementation of any joint decision or management measure.
- Locally based organisation, engaged at the field on a daily basis can provide great results in connecting with local population and ensuring the principle of integrated ecosystem management.

- It is important to use traditional knowledge and people's know-how in management planning, although those practices should be assessed from the scientific point of view as sustainable.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
MAVA	A) Project co-financing	3520 USD	Project coordinating costs (DASHI project)
MAVA	A) Project co-financing	260 USD	Telecommunication costs (DASHI project)

****Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

A) Project co-financing (Other donors contributed to the direct costs of this CEPF 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 project.)

C) Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the successor challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

A similar approach can be replicated when accessing multiple stakeholders in the CEPF or other program of funds, ensuring cooperation of partners and synchronized work on issues related to a particular area.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

Environmental and social safeguard was not required for project implementation

Additional Comments/Recommendations

To simplify forms for the small grants reporting i.e. Performance tracking form addendum and table 1 because it is hard to achieve and assess proposed very concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities, within small grant proposed time period.

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 Website, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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