

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Iniciativa e Grave ne Pune - The Women At Work Initiative - TWAWI
Project Title:	Master Plan for the Recovery of the Spring Water Ecosystem in the Lalzi Bay
Date of Report:	Iniciativa e Grave ne Pune - The Women At Work Initiative - TWAWI
Report Author and Contact Information:	IRENE TOSTI

CEPF Region:

The Southwest Balkans Corridor, in Albania, FYR Macedonia, Greece, Montenegro and Serbia (Corridor surface area: 5,713,629 hectares; 42 key biodiversity areas with a total surface area of 660,923 hectares)

Strategic Direction:

The project relates to CEPF Strategic Direction 2 and is located in the Key Biodiversity Area of the Lalzi Bay in the Southwest Balkans corridor in Albania. In particular, the "Recovery plan for the spring water ecosystem of the Lalzi Bay" was planned in the hilly and coastal areas of the Lalzi Bay in the Southwest Balkans. This territory is part of the municipality of Ishem.

Grant Amount: USD \$ 19,376.00

Project Dates: 01/02/14 to the 30/01/15

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

The main project partner during the implementation of this project was the Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania (INCA). The technical team of the Institute of Nature Conservation in close collaboration with TWAWI staff and local stakeholders has realized all environmental aspects and the biodiversity assessment of the area. Based on its experiences INCA has facilitated the integration of the spring water recovery in a broader biodiversity approach project.

The most important stakeholders included and actively involved in the project implementation was the Municipality of Ishem through maintenance activities, monitoring surveillance and school trip organization. The project has been able to involve the local authority of Ishem in this project and have their support. The Agrarian University of Tirana was one of our scientific stakeholders supporting us for the accomplishment of the laboratory analysis and recommendations on how to fix infiltration problems.

The rural women and their communities in the Lalzi Bay as the main beneficiaries of the project are invited to be part of our activities in terms of consultation and information on the further use of the spring water sites. Women and young generations communities of our project area are encouraged to develop the sustainable tourism concept and to be more aware and capable to influence their future in this area.

Local authorities and main stakeholders were invited to the kick-off meeting on 18 May 2014. We explained to them who CEPF is and what the project priorities are. Their expectations are mixed because they haven't had any experience so far with International donors.

The project was coordinating the activities with the other CEPF project "Green radio" too.

Conservation Impacts

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

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

In the first six months of the project we set up the expert team and its members performed their visits on field and completed their study reports according to the plan. A joint summary study report (Hydro-geology, Biodiversity, GIS) was prepared in Albanian and English version, including their detailed assessment and recommendations on geology, hydrogeology and biodiversity issues, as well as on eco-tourism potential in the Lalzi Bay. For the preparation of this study report a combined work methodology with desktop work and field survey research has been used. The research work's main elements are as follows:

- Data gathering from the existing literature on climate, soil, geology, hydrology, flora, fauna, habitats in the project area;
- Visit and observation in place, including preliminary survey for the assessment of soil, geology and hydrogeology and vegetations in the area etc.;
- Diagnostics of the selected spring water sites including measures taken with field devices;
- Sampling and laboratory analyses;
- GIS data collection for developing the map;
- Generalization of the achieved results;
- Conclusions and recommendations.

After the study report a foreign consultant was contracted for the engineering part in relation to the rehabilitation of the spring water resources, including field visits, the preparation of the construction plan and the set up of the master plan.

Based on the component IV of our work plan in the end of January we completed and circulated for comments the Master Plan for the Recovery of the Spring Water Ecosystem in the Lalzi Bay. The project team worked with dedication and passion to complete the Master Plan and we enjoyed working on it involving and encouraging all interested and affected local stakeholders to be part and think for the future even behind this project. Younger farmers in the area are thinking of lending bikes to tourists over the summer time and hoteliers and B&B owners of the marine area are looking forward to distributing leaflets and maps to tourists because they see a way to enhance their tourist offering in a qualified manner.

In the Master Plan completed we have selected six water spring sites within the nine sites that we had proposed in the first phase of the study. The selection is done based on the criteria such as their intrinsic value, the maximization of the available resources in comparison to the expected benefits, their easy access to the main road that runs along the ridge and affinity with human settlements considering this as a great value for the involvement of local communities.

The construction plan is an important part of this Master Plan. It includes specific interventions on the single spring water sites and also for the improvement of the access to the single sites also through road consolidation works and cleaning of the access path. This plan takes into the consideration the safety of the routes to the spring water sites, their easy use and that they are well signposted and well maintained.

Based on the Master Plan there is a real opportunity to take action and turn a lovely place with a great potential into a virtuous circle in which the respect of biodiversity (and in general of the natural environment) becomes the economic driver for the socio-economic development of the entire area.

A kick-off meeting with local authorities, stakeholders and experts was held in May with the aim of introducing the project locally and discuss with local stakeholders the findings of the study made. This meeting was attended by more than 30 persons most of them representative of the Ishem Commune and others representatives of the nine villages around. The meeting was hosted by the Major of the Ishem Commune who has enthusiastically

endorsed this project. He has also highlighted the importance of such a project, as the first project with foreign donors in the Lalzi Bay. The sustainability of the project is ensured through the establishment of a working group with the representatives of the local community mostly from local government, women society and the young generations which have assisted and cooperated with project staff and experts in every step. This working group has been engaged in the planning process and in all other project activities. In the mean time the project has a great support from the local community, stated in the workshop but also in different unofficial meetings made during the project life.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

Species Conserved:

Corridors Created:

Please note that the project goal was the recovery of the spring water ecosystem in the Lalzi Bay along a route of 10 km and a total surface of 7 ha. The effects go far behind these numbers because the spring water ecosystem in the Lalzi Bay includes the underground river that flows beneath an area of 5.000 ha supplying the spring water sites.

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

The project helped sharing information within the communities. The youngest see today the many benefits that will come from recovering the sites and setting up the eco-itinerary in the Lalzi Bay. They realized that they will need to take ownership, protect the habitat and maintain the spring water sites in good conditions - once the recovery interventions will be completed.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

N/A

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: Assess the physical components regarding the springs

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

- A hydrogeology study report is provided based on the data collection of existing literature and field observations including field measurement devices in nine areas.
- All needed information on the geology and geomorphology characteristics and evolution of the area are provided
- Samples from five springs for full chemical laboratory analysis were taken. All physical and chemical parameters are evaluated and their chemical composition is compared with Albanian and EU standard. A summarised test samples report is provided.
- Based on the chemical and physical laboratory analyses a water quality and potential pollution of the springs is provided.
- Based on the field surveys and sample analyses of hydro-geological aspects a set of seven conclusions and relevant five recommendations are given.

Component 2 Planned: Assess the biodiversity elements and values in the area

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

- The biodiversity study is performed and includes elements such as: the main habitats, wild fauna, special species and protected areas in the Ishem Area.
- A detailed information on the types of vegetation in the area is collected and provided.
- A package of fourteen recommended measures are given.
- Based on the assessment done for the area as a whole and for the planned recovery interventions the project is not expected to have great impact but rather a positive one in the area. In any case there are several points taken into account and included in the EIA Report provided.
- The EIA report and the plan of intervention after the consultation with the relevant local government and interested public is submitted to the Ministry of Environment for further consideration.

Component 3 Planned: Develop the mapping for the master plan

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

- Ten GIS thematic Maps with all the elements are produced and provided.
- All Geographical locations for the spring water sites are collected through three expeditions operated in the area.
- All input data for the springs categorization are assessed and recorded based on the field and site visits undertaken.
- The map for the selected spring water sites with enriched potential touristic elements is provided.

Component 4 Planned: Development of the Master Plan of the intervention

Component 4: Actual at Completion:

- The spring water sites are analyzed in cooperation with local authorities. An extra assessment performed by the expert team selected six water spring sites.
- The plan prepared for each spring water site includes: a brief description; the whole book including a metric calculation of the projected works; a layout; an operational scheme; as well as a sketch or a render simulation.
- A plan for the construction and intervention for the water spring sites is done, including the split for each site: green area and external layout; construction works / hydraulics.
- The calculation for the investments needed for recovery of the water spring sites is done. A detailed cost analysis for each of the selected sites is finalized. It includes excavation, road construction, drainage, planting and landscaping, construction, etc. It also includes the cost analysis for signboards / road signs / itinerary signs; waste containers; construction planning; work direction; transfers and accommodation for work direction. The total amount of the investment requested is about 136,082.93 USD. The cost of the construction plan per each site is calculated and the total amounts 76,265.33 USD.
- The main milestones for the monitoring scheme that will be realized by the project staff in cooperation with the local community and authority are provided.
- The Program of capacity building, Awareness and Education (PAE) in relation to tourism and conservation is seen as a key element by the Master Plan. It includes capacity building component during its implementation. The main pillars of this programme are identified and elaborated.
- The final Document of Master Plan is finalized.

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

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

Please see the following docs that include several references:

- Study for the Implementation of the Master Plan for the Recovery of the Spring water Ecosystem of the Lalzi Bay edited in September 2014 and duly submitted.
- Master Plan for the Recovery of the Spring water Ecosystem of the Lalzi Bay edited in January 2015 and duly submitted.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to 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/

Short comings)

First of all the TWAWI project staff increased their capacity in managing the project in cooperation with other partners. Moreover: the project helped sharing information within the communities. The youngest see today the many benefits that will come from recovering the sites and setting up the eco-itinerary. They realized that they will need to take ownership and protect the habitat and maintain the spring water sites in good conditions, once the recovery interventions will be completed. We believe that this can be seen as a learning process in sharing information and experiences.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

N/A

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
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

A) Project co-financing (Other donors contribute 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 success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

The youngest realized that taking ownership of the recovered spring water sites and in general of the eco-itinerary will bring them a good source of income for the years to come. This is a first success on the way to sustainable tourism that can bring real benefits to the rural communities and to the environment.

The project contains several elements that can be replicated at national level. First of all the integration of water management and nature conservation through the involvement of women associations and the young generations who will be the main stakeholders to develop the sustainable tourism concept in the area.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

N/A

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

According to the EIA completed in January 2015: the approach is very positive as the project is not expected to have a negative impact.

The required actions are as follows:

Vegetation – The project will secure permits for any trees to be cut, just some bushes and that is going to be just the first year of the Project implementation. Loss of range of habitat types, however all are of low ecological importance with likely low impacts on birds and mammals

Noise - Some temporary construction noise. No contribution to future noise environment.

Visual amenity - Some vegetation lost, however new planting may enhance visual amenity.

Water and Waste – During the construction will be produced used water and solid waste that should be part of the plan.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

N/A

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:

Name: Irene Tosti

Organisation Name: Iniciativa e Grave ne Pune - TWAWI – The Women At Work Initiative

Mailing Address: Lagjen Nr.1, Hyrja 2, Bize, 2015 Ishem Durres, Albania

Tel: +355-522-30802

Fax: +355-522-30802

Email: irene.twawi@gmail.com

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

**Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.**

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	N/A			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	N/A			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	N/A			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	N/A			

5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	N/A			
---	------------	--	--	--

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

