CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	**Environmental organization "Grashnica"**
Project Title:	**Smart water use on the farmland in the Ohrid Lake region**
Date of Report:	**30.06. 2015**
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CEPF Region: Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot, Balkan, Ohrid Lake

Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 2, Investment Priority 2.4

Grant Amount: **18880 $**

Project Dates: **1 Sep. 2014 – 30 Jun. 2015**

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

The NGO CEEweb for Biodiversity, Hungary as a partner organisation collected the most relevant international examples on climate change adaptation in agriculture, adapted these to the region and transfered them through the trainings. It also provided and EU expert for the final conference.

The Macedonian Ecological Society was participating in the development of curricula for the trainings.

State Agency for development of Agriculture, local unit in Ohrid participated with providing data about agriculture in the Ohrid Lake watershed and helped in distribution of the questionnaires to farmers about assessment of existing knowledge and capacities. It also participated in distribution of project information materials.

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 for improving the efficiency of water use by mitigating and adapting for water scarcity and raising awareness of the farmers about the effects of climate change that should be undertaken on Ohrid Lake Basin as KBA and creation of roadmap for funding strategy for CEPF Mediterranean ecosystem profile.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

1) Strengthened cooperation between relevant stakeholders through the established cooperation platform and project activities over the Lake Ohrid's watershed
2) Enhanced recognition and profiling of the lake's watershed freshwater ecosystems, biodiversity values and its sustainable management options with view to the protection of biodiversity and adaptation to climate change
3) Increased awareness of farmers and other relevant stakeholders about natural values, climate change and enhanced interest in implementing sustainable agricultural water use measures
4) Better inclusion of ecosystem and climate change adaptation concepts, measures and strategies in local development plans and strategies

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 to contribute to the sustainable management and wise use of water resources by strengthening climate change preparedness in local communities and agricultural sector of the lake Ohrid region. Within this objective, the aim was to merge and straightforward the efforts of all stakeholders to promote and implement the concept of trans-boundary watershed management so as to halt the loss of the biodiversity.

This objective was realized through two different activities: 1) Baseline assessments and mapping of ways of water use and their vulnerabilities of the current socio-economic situation and future trends and identification of water efficient opportunities; 2) trainings, info-days and study visit which involved different stakeholders groups to work together in harmonization of actions for improved management of the region's water use.

The project management team successfully established coordination with the local government units (municipality of Ohrid and municipality of Debarca), the Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water economy (local unit office), Agency for promotion and support of agriculture in Republic of Macedonia (local unit office) and academic institutions – the Faculty of agricultural sciences and food (Ph.D Ordan Chukaliev and Ph.D Vjekoslav Tanaskovic).

All that resulted in sharing of data, information and general program plan in the conservation or water in the agriculture in the Ohrid Lake Basin as a protected area. Now that a baseline portfolio of products has been generated we are armed with the necessary information to conduct a comprehensive dissemination strategy through the development of further publications and conducting follow-up surveys and meetings with key target groups.

Main outputs from the project include:

- Most important conservation and management priority actions for implementation of climate-change adaption measures in the Ohrid Lake watershed are identified;
- Agreed priorities are developed and submitted to the relevant authorities and
- Ideas for potential new project proposals based on Ohrid Lake example and knowledge gained during the trainings and the final conference

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

No unexpected impacts 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: Supporting existing lake/water management structures and establishing an ad-hoc cooperation platform with representatives of various authorities

Component 1 Actual at Completion: This activity involved contacting local and central administration in the fields of agriculture, rural development, nature protection, resource management and the environment, like the following Local unit of the Agency for development of agriculture, concessionaire of the watershed of the Sateska and Koselska rivers, presidents of the local communities of the villages Kosel, Belchishta, Gorno-, Dolno- Lakocherej, Orman, Mesheishta and Botun, local NGOs and protected area staff.
We held 3 meetings with authorities from the municipalities of Ohrid and Debarca to familiarise them with the project, look at the possibilities to mutually promote our/their efforts in this field during the project duration but also after it and to establish cooperation.

Component 2 Planned: Baseline assessments and mapping of ways of water use and their vulnerabilities

Component 2 Actual at Completion: Stakeholder analysis conducted in 8 rural riparian communities in the municipalities of Ohrid and Debarca, involving some 120 farmers. This activity was conducted by by field activities – talks with the people from the communities to identify their needs and problems and filling in a specially designed questionnaire. The questionnaire and the key findings from are given in separate documents. Main conclusions of the survey are:. the people are not well informed regarding the water saving possibilities for the water they use in their properties, the amount of water that is consumed by their sources/appliances and the total amount of water they consume for irrigation.
The majority of the respondents reported that they had a high interest about water resources conservation, water scarcity reduction and willing to invest in water saving appliances. Nevertheless, the majority of the installed appliances are not water efficient and therefore water conservation behaviour is mainly owed to the frequency of use of the appliances. The survey showed that people are willing to reduce water consumption in their property so as to conserve water but they need more information on how to save water (58.82%) and encouragement or support from the community or the Government (47.5%).
One interesting fact is that farmers do not choose to decrease the frequency of use in the high consuming water uses of irrigating. This may be attributed to the fact that farmers from these river watersheds have a high self-image in terms of environmental protection and water saving thus making them believe that they are already “doing their best”.
The results of the survey identified, that policy makers may try to concentrate their efforts, in raising the awareness regarding the amount of water used by the different water sources and appliances, their importance and the water saving potential.

Component 3 Planned: Development and implementation of trainings and info-days on **s**ustainable agricultural water use management in the watersheds of the involved rivers.
Afterwards, “Grashnica” will organize 8 info-days in 8 villages which will involve placing a table (stand) in the centre of each village and communicating with local people about: the aims of the project, water efficiency, soil management techniques that save water and improve soil structure (compost, tillage and alike), and state and EU funding opportunities for provision of water saving devices for farms project information materials will be disseminated. The info-days will be organized at frequent locations in the centres of the villages, with previous notice in the local media and by word of mouth. This method has proven very successful for us in organizing previous similar events, as the people are usually curious in what’s happening in their place. At each event additionally, we will invite members of the cooperation platform. Some 400 stakeholders will be involved in the info-days.

The most interested farmers and local stakeholders will be invited to a study visit to a demonstration site: a farm which is already using drip irrigation and/or traditional water saving practices. These activities will be connected also to the approaching state subsidy measure for agricultural development to the farmers in collaboration with the local unit of the Agency for development of Agriculture – Ohrid. The farmers will be encouraged on how to apply to receive funds and technical assistance to repair and upgrade water efficient irrigation infrastructure.

Component 3 Actual at Completion: The programme had particular emphasis on management effectiveness, cross-sectoral cooperation mechanisms and suitable management responses to climate change. CEEweb for Biodiversity prepared background materials including the most relevant international examples and held 2 one-day trainings in the municipalities of Ohrid and Debarca, where all the relevant stakeholders were invited. Results:

- 2 trainings in the municipalities of Debarca and Ohrid were conducted by two experts, in collaboration with the partner CEEweb for Biodiversity.

The trainings involved the following topics:

- Expected impacts of climate change for freshwater ecosystems (Ohrid Lake, surface and
- ground waters, biodiversity)
- the Water Framework Directive and the Nature Directives and their future implementation
- in Macedonia
- water efficiency in agriculture and climate change
- measures for adapting to climate change
- mechanisms and incentives for provision of water-efficient devices and efficient irrigation;
- sharing experiences
-

The methodology used a case-study approach, utilising participatory techniques, participant observation, and data analysis. 60 participants attended the trainings, 30 participants each.

- 8 info-days in 8 villages organized and communicating with local people about: the aims of the project, water efficiency, soil management techniques that save water and improve soil structure (compost, tillage and alike), and state and EU funding opportunities for provision of water saving devices for farms project information materials will be disseminated. The info-days were organized in the centres of the villages, with previous notice in the local media and by word of mouth. Every meeting lasted about 2 hours and was attended by 50 participants.

- Organized 1 study visit in village Orman, Municipality of Ohrid on the Koselska River: we choose a farm – an apple orchard which already uses drip irrigation and/or traditional water saving practices.
- The study visit was comprised of 30 participants. The owner of the farm explained what are the basic principles of saving water and growing crops: use of drip irrigation, making and using compost, mulching, sheet composting, cover cropping identifying pests, pathogens and beneficials, harvesting practice His farm is in its 15 year of developing and growing food while educating local communities about sustainable farming and how to live sustainably in the region of Ohrid.
  The aim of the tour was to foster the stakeholders' understanding of the problems and challenges related to the management of water and agricultural land linked with the current governance structure in the territory of Ohrid Lake and its watershed.

- production of info-materials:

1) 1000 copies of information pamphlet created, designed and disseminated (already sent to you by mail on 18th May 2015)
2) 50 copies of educational poster created, designed and disseminated (already sent to you by mail on 18th May 2015)

The info-materials are disseminated to the relevant institutions and stakeholders throughout the project region

- organized joint event with the GAUSS Institute, Bitola, Macedonia and the Institute for Environmental Policy – Albania. More about the event can be found the following page: http://gaussinstitute.org/cepf/?p=22888

Component 4 Planned: Organizing final conference

Component 4 Actual at Completion: The results of the survey, trainings and info-days were used to generate region-specific recommendations for the implementation of climate-change adaptation measures in agriculture through organizing final project conference. At the final conference we invited 1 expert from EU. He had presentation about agriculture and water use in the EU: challenges and solutions. At the conference was provided to farmers technical knowledge on conservation and management of water. Also it was discussed with decision makers of the involved communities with the view to map follow-up opportunities and integrate the result in local development plans, climate change adaptation strategies and financial plans. The conference brought together 30 representatives of authorities and major stakeholders involved.

The dissemination of the outcomes of the project over the whole duration were supported by media and published on websites as the following:

http://tvm.mk/vesti/ohrid/20894-pravilno-koristenje-voda-navodnuvanje

http://www.ohridnet.com/vesti/ohrid/5692-soveti-za-ohridskite-zemjodelci-

http://www.moris.mk/2015/%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D1%84%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%BC%D0%BE%D0%B6%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0/

http://www.ohridnews.com/vesti/82260

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 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.

The engagement of partners has been essential. In particular, the involvement of local units of governmental institutions and university has been critical to gaining buy-in within the region. Engaging other large NGOs working in the region, such as CEEweb for Biodiversity, has also contributed to the success of this project.

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

To conduct field survey activities a specific questionnaire was designed to collect information on different activities connected with water saving. The project had 8 social moblizers, two agriculture experts and one coordinator for regular cooperation, assistance and delivering the technical knowledge to the communities. Above all the for the project activities the project team was formed with clear task distribution taking members from the target groups. The regular meetings with social mobilizers and relevant authorities helped for the smooth implementation of project without duplication.

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

The key to gaining buy-in has been building partnerships, information dissemination, and continued dialogue. The coordination meeting and close contact among CEPF grantees in the region (GAUSS Institute and IEP, Albania) helped to reduce the duplication of activities. Alternative livelihood promotional activities through demonstration such as the study visit is one of the key tool for imparting knowledge to the community people. The establishment of the ad-hoc platform and the commitments made by partner institutions will now serve as a mechanism to build increasing momentum for long-term water conservation and initiation of taking measures for adaptation to climate change within the Ohrid Lake basin.

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 institutions and 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 Ohrid Lake, including operational and regulatory capacity, infrastructure and community level mechanisms and incentives which are in place to support further water resource management and climate change adaptation measures.

- 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 Ohrid Lake area.

- Great level of collaboration at watershed - transboundary and local level, as well as participation and active involvement of all interested stakeholders at Ohrid Lake is possible but needs a long run

- stakeholders 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.

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

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.

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

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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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 1below.	n/a			

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

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
									Increased Income due to:												
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services	Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance	Other
Total																					

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit: