

CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	Regionalni Resursni Centar
Project Title:	Improved Protection and Sustainable Management of River Ecosystems in the Neretva Delta, Trebizat and Mostarsko Blato, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Grant Number:	CEPF-110227
Hotspot:	Mediterranean Basin II
Strategic Direction:	2 Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity
Grant Amount:	\$108,848.12
Project Dates:	September 01, 2020 - May 31, 2022
Date of Report:	November 03, 2022

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Sports fishing association Bjelave, Čapljina
- Sports Fishing Association Široki Brijeg
- Sports Fishing Association Kravice, Ljubuski
- Sports fishing association Amur, Grude

All fishing associations have a concession for the use of fish stocks, according to the corresponding law on freshwater fisheries.

- Association for Bird and Nature Protection "Čapljja" Čapljina - association with the aim of protecting and conserving the habitats and bird species in the Federation of BiH.
- Neretva Delta Forum (NDF), non-profit organization created as a result of cross-border cooperation in Neretva Delta. NDF BIH and NDF RH act as sister organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia. NDF BIH brings together non-governmental organizations, economic entities, scientists, and individuals. It is committed to raising public awareness of the sustainable use and management of natural resources.
- Public company Nature Park Hutovo Blato has a guard service that performs the activities of safeguarding and monitoring hunting and fishing. Nature Park has successfully implemented a number of local and international projects for the protection of birds, habitats and species.

ReReC signed an MOU with Partners: sports fishing associations Bjelave, Široki Brijeg, Kravice, Amur, Association ČAPLJA, Neretva Delta Forum (NDF), Public company Nature Park Hutovo Blato, and non-governmental organizations that are components of ReReC (ČAPLJA, NDF, Lijepa Nasa, EHO, Pangea).

NGOs partners were involved in the project as direct beneficiaries for the training/workshops/conferences and equipment, but also participated directly in activities:

- 1) Conduct control and monitoring of poaching and points of sale,

- 2) Conducting research on the state and threat of fish species,
- 3) Eco/cleanup activities,
- 4) Arrangement of fishing trails,
- 5) Organization of competitions in sport fishing and catching

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>Joint cooperation of NGOs (5), fishing associations (6), protected areas authorities, police and inspection affect the management of freshwater biodiversity of three KBAs (Hutovo blato, Neretva river, Trebižat river), and the state in nature conservation is improved through enhanced monitoring and surveillance to reduce poaching, and adoption of action plans for fish.</p>	<p>By signing Agreement on cooperation between non-governmental organizations and fishing societies, the basis for stronger cooperation on the protection of freshwater ecosystems of the KBA (Hutovo blato, Neretva river, Trebižat river) was created, which will lead to increased access to clean water, improved decision-making, improved access to ecosystem services and increased resilience to climate change.</p> <p>The developed Action plan for fish created the basis for long-term cooperation and work on implementation measures, especially enhanced monitoring and surveillance to reduce poaching in KBA areas, which will lead improved decision-making.</p> <p>Non-governmental organizations and fishing associations received direct benefits through the project: they improved and built capacity, improved their work and working conditions, and became directly involved in the protection, use of natural resources and sustainable tourism activities. All this contributes to the planned long-term lasting impacts that leads to improved decision-making.</p>
<p>Awareness of the public and local stakeholders in the local and cross-border area about the negative impact of non-native, invasive fish species improves</p>	<p>To improve the awareness of the public and local stakeholders, workshops were held with fishing societies and local stakeholders on the state of the fish stock and the negative impact of invasive species. Fishermen's associations are equipped with uniforms and electric bicycles for easier monitoring of the state of the fish stock, and by purchasing aggregates with sonar, the state of invasive species, especially pike, is monitored. A fishing path was built in the Neretva delta, and fishing/removal of pike was carried out. With acquired knowledge and tools, the basis for the long-term implementation of activities to prevent invasive species was created. The signed memorandums of understanding in the cross-border area (Metković and Kula Norinska, Croatia) include future joint activities that will deal with the problem of invasive species and the</p>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	<p>preservation of the state of the fish stock. As part of the activities of ReReC and fishing associations, compensation was obtained from Elektroprivreda in the amount of 450,000 KM due to damage to the state of the fish stock. Cooperation with fishing societies will continue, and within the ten-year plan of the fishing base, activities will be prescribed to continue the prevention of invasive species and the preservation of the fish stock.</p>
<p>The status of six other fish species in the wider Neretva river area stabilized/improved as consequence of decreased poaching and electric fishing (Paraphoxinus adspersus - VU; Squalius svallize - VU; Delminichthys adspersus-VU; Salmo obtusirostris-EN; Squalius microlepis – EN, Anguilla Anguilla - CR)</p>	<p>With this and other follow-up projects, we secured positive long-term trends for these six species. These species were most threatened by fishing with electric generators/poaching and invasive species. With cooperation with the local police, county and federal inspectors poaching was decreased. Surveillance and prevention of poaching in Hutovo Blato was carried out, and this led to a decrease in the number of poachers. In cooperation with fishing societies, invasive species (pike) were caught, and in this way a favorable impact on the abundance of these 6 species was achieved. By reducing threats such as poaching and invasive species, a positive trend has been ensured, and these activities will continue in the future, and we expect an improved status of these fish species.</p>
<p>The future Water Management Plan for the Adriatic Sea basin in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina includes specific recommendations and commitments for long-term preservation of freshwater biodiversity</p>	<p>By participating in the public debate and commenting on the drafts, ReReC influenced the Adriatic Sea Water Management Plan in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2022-2027. which will be adopted by the end of this year, especially with the following impact - completing the database on fish species and adding species to the Endemic Species of Freshwater Fish table from recent research. At least 5 fish species will be added to the list. By participating in the public debate on the Proposal for the Management Plan for Protected Areas and Areas of the Ecological Network of the Neretva Delta (Croatia), ReReC's request for the inclusion of data from recent research was adopted. The Public Institution for Protected Areas is currently collecting new data from all organizations that have conducted research (including ReReCs), and the Plan Proposal is still being developed. There will be an improvement in the planned activities and measures aimed at improved management of the protected areas of the Neretva delta in Croatia.</p>
<p>Communities of the target's sites benefit from improved living conditions through creation of job opportunities related to ecotourism and sport fishing: at least 15 seasonal jobs created/consolidated</p>	<p>There is a continuous increase in the number of visitors in the area, which leads to the creation of jobs related to ecotourism and sport fishing in protected areas, especially Kravice and Peć Mlini. This increase is not unsustainable because it is</p>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	accompanied by improved management and improved visitor management measures (such as entrance fees, trails, etc.). Although ReReC does not have access to the necessary data and it is difficult to quantify them, based on field visits and comparison of data from previous projects, the number of visitors is continuously increasing, as is the number of employees in these protected areas by 20-30%.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
An initiative launched with private sector: six sport fishing societies and five NGOs in the Neretva Basin benefit from joint cooperation and capacity building, improvement of their work and working conditions. Fishing associations get more involved in protection and sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable tourism activities.	ReReC launched an initiative on joint cooperation and participation in project activities with 4 sports fishing associations, 19 non-governmental organizations, and two public institutions in protected areas in the Neretva basin, which ultimately benefited from joint cooperation and capacity building, improving their work and working conditions. By jointly implementing project activities, fishing associations were more concerned with the protection and sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable tourism activities. By participating in the prevention of poaching, the creation of fish trails, the fishing of invasive species, and organizing eco-actions they contributed to the protection of natural resources. By organizing two Fish Festivals, and sport fishing, they contributed to the sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable tourism. The initiative continued with new projects implemented by ReReC, and the same is planned in the future.
The status of fish species <i>Chondrostoma knerii</i> (VU), <i>Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus</i> (VU) and <i>Rutilus basac</i> (LC, but locally under a declining trend) improves, with reduction of poaching and invasive species (i.e. increased population at spawning sites, monitored by number of violations registered and reported)	organizing eco-actions and creating a fishing path the condition of the fish species <i>Chondrostoma knerii</i> (VU), <i>Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus</i> (VU) and <i>Rutilus basac</i> (LC) has improved as expected. Fishing associations that carried out these activities do not keep records of catches, so ReReC was not able to measure this increase. However, based on discussions with members of fishing societies about the state of fish populations, an increase in the status of these fish species was confirmed. By organizing eco-actions and creating a fishing path in the Neretva delta, the accessibility of these populations to the spawning areas was ensured, which further increased their numbers. Also, fishing of invasive species such as pike contributed to the increase in the number of population, especially juveniles. Based on the monitoring of poaching and the situation at the points of sale at green markets,

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	<p>accompanied by reports of violations and prosecuted by the court, an additional contribution was made to ensuring the stability of these species.</p> <p>Poaching inspections were carried out, in which representatives of fishing associations, non-governmental associations, and protected areas participated, accompanied by the police and inspectors.</p>
<p>Collaboration between stakeholders is enhanced, through a local coordination platform bringing together local communities, decision makers, governing bodies and beneficiaries of fisheries fund users for participatory sustainable management and functioning. Stakeholders participate together to implementation of project's activity (river clean-up, monitoring of markets, surveillance)</p>	<p>Joint action and cooperation of local, county and cross-border stakeholders with the organization of eco-actions, sports competitions, Fishijada's, workshops, meetings and conferences. With the cooperation of non-governmental associations and the local population, a part of the coast along the Neretva River in the Doljani locality was arranged in a length of 300 m.</p> <p>To reduce invasive fish species in Neretva, Trebižat, Krupa, and Hutovo Blato, ReReC, with representatives of fishing societies, organized fishing for pike, which became a real threat to endemic fish species, primarily <i>Chondrostoma knerii</i>, <i>Rutilus basac</i> and <i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>.</p> <p>To draw the attention of the public and key stakeholders in the area to the necessity of preserving the favorable state of the fish stock and the preservation of endangered species, two Fishijada's were organized.</p> <p>ReReC identified and contacted all representatives of interest group and agreement on integrated management of water resources was signed. This established a framework for the cooperation of fishing societies, the Hutovo Blato Nature Park, non-governmental organizations. These activities contributed to increased access to clean water, food security, use of traditional knowledge, and improved access to ecosystem services</p>
<p>An Action Plan for the Conservation of Endangered Fish Species is developed and adopted and becomes an integral part of the management plans and documents of the fisheries companies.</p>	<p>Based on the results obtained, an Action Plan was created with all protection and conservation measures, as well as a plan for the use of endangered fish species. The action plan will be the basis for the nomination of projects for the protection and preservation of fish species in the KBA areas.</p> <p>In the future Management Plan of Nature Park Hutovo Blato, the Action Plan will be used as a guide for the creation of a fishing base, which will be one of the measures.</p> <p>In addition, it will be an integral part of the future fishing bases in West Herzegovina County, while certain measures from the Plan will be included in</p>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	the annual work plan of Sports fishing association "Bjelave" Čapljina for the 2023 fishing season, which will lead to improved decision-making and improved access to ecosystem services.
The capacities of ReReC improves and ReReC is recognized as an important stakeholder in the field of freshwater biodiversity conservation.	Nomination of projects under the Environmental Protection Fund for the valorization of Peć Mlini, Lake Krenica and Vrbine in the municipality of Grude; Ričine and Žukovice waterfalls in Posušje municipality; and Neretva delta, in which the Regional Resource Center is one of the leaders or partners in the implementation and realization of aquatic biodiversity conservation activities, is proof that ReReC is recognized as an important stakeholder in the field of freshwater biodiversity conservation. These activities improved decision-making and access to ecosystem services. Also, due to the involvement of members in all project activities, the capacities of ReReC have improved, and this is confirmed by the increase in points for human resources and the total score of CSTT, from 61 to 63 points.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Since one of the components was aimed at raising awareness among stakeholders and building the capacity of partners, no negative effects were observed. However, during the workshops, the stakeholders started discussions and topics that they had not talked about for years, and which created a gap between them. In particular, there was a discussion between local people and representatives of the Public Company Elektroprivreda HZ HB for the Peć Mlini area. Although there was a heated discussion at the beginning, they resolved all ambiguities and decided to jointly take steps to protect and preserve Trebižat River. This was an unexpected positive effect of the workshops, as problems preventing cooperation were identified, ambiguities were resolved, and joint work between stakeholders began.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:

The project was aimed at improved protection and sustainable management of river ecosystems, and required the involvement of as many stakeholders as possible. Until then, ReRec could not confirm their capacities for the implementation of certain activities and for this reason, ReReC started to strengthen and integrate all key stakeholders in 4 KBA (Hutovo Blato, Neretva Delta, Trebizat, Mostarsko Blato). This was especially aimed to strengthen the personnel and technical capabilities to respond to daily tasks, but also to build an alliance with the local community, which is the key to the project and the fight against poaching. Three workshops were held, and 55 participants expanded their knowledge on ecology, freshwater fisheries law, fisheries basics, code of conduct, communication and interpretation of natural resources. The participants were sensitized to the issues of protection and preservation of endangered species of the fish stock.

By acquiring equipment, the condition and capacity of fishing societies in anti-poaching activities and education was improved.

Two conferences on freshwater ecosystems were held with 62 participants in total. ReReC launched an initiative and created a platform for greater cooperation and exchange of

experiences among key stakeholders on the protection, conservation, use and management of fish and water resources in order to ensure the necessary conditions for the development and promotion of fisheries. The participants adopted knowledge that they can apply in future projects (5 new projects for nature and environment protection in KBA were nominated). Fishing societies began to participate in public discussions (exploitation of gravel, the construction of corridor Vc and the payment of compensation for the loss of fish stock). The project built the capacity of local communities and fishing societies through support for the development of economic activities that do not harm the environment, and improved participatory management of water resources through the protection and conservation in KBA. These activities contributed to increased access to clean water, improved decision-making and access to ecosystem services.

Memorandums of understanding were signed between 4 fishing societies, 18 NGOs, 2 public institutions and other stakeholders on joint activities to combat poaching, protection, preservation and use of water resources. Two Memorandums of Understanding were signed with the city of Metković and the municipality of Kula Norinska (Republic of Croatia), which became the basis of joint cooperation on the protection and management of freshwater ecosystems in the cross-border area. By signing these MUOs between fishing associations and other organizations on both sides of the border, a platform was created where all stakeholders discuss water management in the Neretva river basin, giving priority to participatory/integrated management.

Cooperation was achieved with fishing societies, local police, county and federal inspectors regarding surveillance and poaching in KBA areas, as well as control of sales points. During the monthly controls, 11 reports against illegality were filed, and two were processed at the cantonal and federal levels. The joint action prevented the exploitation of gravel at the entrance to Nature Park Hutovo Blato, and the competent company had to completely stop the work and pay compensatory measures to the fishing associations. Also, with joint efforts, the Fishing Society Bjelave received compensation from Elektroprivreda HZHB for the destruction of fish stocks and habitats in Čapljina municipality in the amount of 400,000 KM (about 200,000 dollars).

All project activities contributed to the creation of the Action Plan - the basis for long-term cooperation and work on the implementation of measures, especially increased monitoring and supervision to reduce poaching in KBA areas. Action plan has been adopted and will become an integral part of management plans and documents of fishing societies that lead to better decision-making, clean water and access to ecosystem services.

To achieve the long-term goals of the project, ensure the sustainability of the management and use of natural resources through joint actions and formalize cooperation between local, county and cross-border stakeholders, ReReC provided comments on the working material of the Water Management Plan for the Adriatic Sea Basin in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2022- 2027). The comments were aimed at harmonizing the implementation of measures where there is a common interest of different water users for both water areas, and were adopted. ReReC also attended the public debate on the Proposal for the Management Plan for protected areas and areas of the ecological network of the Neretva Delta (Croatia), made comments on the Plan, which related to influences from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and requested the inclusion of new data in the Plan. The objections have been taken into account, the Public Institution for Protected Areas is currently collecting new data, and the Plan Proposal is still being developed. These changes will contribute to resilience to climate change, improve decision-making and access to ecosystem services.

In order to sensitize the public, popularize the protection and preservation of endangered fish species and preserve their abundance (*Chondrostoma knerii*, *Rutilus basac*, *Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus* and *Phoxinellus adspersus*), the following activities were organized:

- in Doljani locality, the Neretva River, a 300 m long fishing trail was built, which made it possible to connect these species with spawning grounds and contributed to the increase

in numbers. The trail became the basis for the development of sport-recreational fishing, which is engaged in by SRD Bjelave, as well as cultural and artistic events organized by local associations.

- three eco actions were held with 54 participants to clean the bed of Trebižat and Neretva, which are the most endangered, but also the most used for tourism. Actions were carried out with fishing societies and divers, and the cleaning of the river bottom contributed to the provision of habitat for these species.
- one of the biggest threats to endemic species is the appearance of invasive species, especially pike. As part of the activities and in cooperation with fishing societies, ReReC organized pike fishing on the Trebižat River and the Neretva Delta, which ultimately led to an improvement in the number of endangered species.
- two Fish Festivals were organized to sensitize the public about the preservation of endangered fish species. They used traditional knowledge and ways of preparing fish specialties, and special attention was focused on ways of catching and preparing pike dishes.

As all activities were aimed at improving the management of river ecosystems, the organization of sport fishing and two Fish Festivals contributed to the improvement of the tourist offer. An increase in the number of tourists in protected areas was recorded, as well as an increase in income in municipalities (Čapljina, Grude, Ljubuški) from tourism activities (taxes through salaries, income from tickets in protected areas). Due to the improvement of conditions and sustainable management and use, the number of seasonal workers has increased between 20 and 30%, and it can be concluded that access to ecosystem services has improved.

All activities are accompanied by announcements on the created website www.rerec.ba A short film "Green Travertine" was made about the natural beauty of the Trebižat River, as well as a brochure. A special contribution to the project was the participation of representatives of ReReC in the filming of two ARTE.TV documentaries about protected areas and KBAs: Hutovo Blato, Trebižat River and Vjetrenica Cave. The magazine Eko Hercegovina was published with the results of all CEPF projects in BiH.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Stakeholder empowerment and strengthening the capacities of ReReC	1.1	45 local stakeholders (fishermen, NGOs, Local people, Protected Areas) trained on freshwater systems, as demonstrated by attendance list and the evaluation by participants - with specific attention to gender inclusion	<p>Three workshops were held with 55 participants.</p> <p>The first workshop was held on November 14, 2020. in Čapljina and was attended by 17 participants (3F, 14M).</p> <p>The second workshop took place on November 20, 2020. in Grude and was attended by 16 participants (3F, 13M).</p> <p>The third workshop took place on January 15, 2021. in Ljubuski, 22 participants (3F, 19M)</p> <p>Participants attended from fishing associations, non-governmental organizations and representatives of the business and academic community.</p> <p>The project was presented at the workshops and the following topics were covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KBA areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina; - Status, protection and conservation of endangered fish species in the KBA area - Neretva delta, Trebižat and Mostarsko blato; - Poaching and the work of the fish watch service; - Law on Freshwater Fisheries; - Fishing base. <p>The participants acquired new knowledge about ecology, the law on freshwater fishing, fishing basics, the code of conduct in the field, communication between stakeholders and the importance of natural resources.</p>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
2.0	Sustainable use and management of natural resources in KBA Trebižat and development of an Action Plan	2.1	Signed stakeholder's consent to participate in the project; Signed document / agreement on cooperation in combating poaching and monitoring	<p>Signed agreements on cooperation between the Regional Resource Center and municipalities in the cross-border area - Republic of Croatia, City of Metković (January 2021) and Kula Norinska (January 2022) on joint readiness for cross-border cooperation on the protection, preservation and sustainable use of river ecosystems of the Neretva River. These signed documents created the basis for joint cooperation on the protection and management of freshwater ecosystems in the cross-border area.</p> <p>Signed Agreement on cooperation on the cultural and tourist event "Flower of Herzegovina" between NDF and Partners: ReReC, Pangea, Reference Group for defining the way and role and activities in the implementation of the event, as well as those that will be held in the coming years.</p>
3.0	Sensitizing the public on the protection and conservation of endangered fish species	3.1	At least 250 people engaged in 5 events types (eco-action, Fisijada, educational workshop, preparation of fishing trail, invasive fish catching) as demonstrated by press-releases or photo reports. Specific attention to gender inclusion.	<p>Three eco actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the first was part of "Trebižet Days" event on July 10-11, 2021 and was held along the entire 51 km stretch of Tihaljina-Mlade-Trebizat. ReReC members, partner organizations, and 12 diving associations from the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina participated. A total of 54 participants (9F, 22M).

Component		Deliverable		
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				<p>- the second eco action took place on August 26, 2021. on river Trebizat, with 12 participants (5F, 7M), and</p> <p>- the third on April 30, 2022. with 11 participants (11M) as part of the activity Catching invasive species.</p> <p>An additional eco action was held during the activity Catching invasive species on August 7, 2021. in Doljani village w 9 participants (9M). In cooperation with NGOs, SRD Bjelave arranged a 300 m long fishing path, with preliminary cleaning, in Doljani village - Neretva river. This activity was held on August 7, 2021. and 9 participants (9M) attended. 30.4.2022. in Doljani village, Catching invasive species event was organized. 11 participants (11M) took part and 25 pike were caught.</p> <p>2 Fishijadas: The first was held at Lake Krenica, had 1,500 visitors and it was educational and competitive. The second was held on September 3, 2021 in Doljani (23 participants), for the first time in Neretva Delta.</p>
1.0	Stakeholder empowerment and strengthening the capacities of ReReC	1.2	Partners fishing societies and local NGO equipped for anti-poaching and educational activities, as demonstrated by photo report and media release	For personnel and technical strengthening, 2 electric bicycles were acquired, which increased mobility of fishing societies in poaching control, 7 uniforms for their recognition in KBA areas, educational kits for monitoring the state of river ecosystems, as well as electric aggregate with sonar for easier

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				monitoring of the state of the fish stock, especially invasive species.
1.0	Stakeholder empowerment and strengthening the capacities of ReReC	1.3	60 local stakeholders trained on freshwater systems, as demonstrated by attendance list and the evaluation by participants. Specific attention paid to gender inclusion	<p>Two conferences on freshwater systems were held. The first was held on 28.7.2021. in Grude municipality. There were 29 participants (13F, 16M). At the conference, planned activities, projects sponsored by CEPF that were implemented or are being implemented in the region were presented, and certain topics were covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main guidelines for the protection and sustainable management of biological diversity in KBA areas; - Good management practices of protected areas; - Protection and work of the guard service in KBA; - New legal solutions on freshwater fisheries. <p>The second was held on May 6, 2022 in Čapljina, and there were 33 participants (14F, 19M). The results of the project were presented and film about the river Trebižat – "Green Travertine" made as part of the project. In addition, the results of two projects implemented by ReReC are presented "Campaign to launch the initiative to establish a protected area Peć Mlini - Monument of nature in the municipality of Grude" and "Monitoring of Mostarsko Blato for inclusion in the list of IBA areas". The results of other CEPF projects implemented in BiH were also</p>

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				presented. Cooperation on joint activities was achieved.
1.0	Stakeholder empowerment and strengthening the capacities of ReReC	1.4	Exchange of knowledge and experience in the Mediterranean basin (poster, pwp presentation or report)	<p>Due to the pandemic, this activity was not carried out. All CEPF conferences were canceled during this period. The project was presented at the 10th symposium with international participation Kopački rit "Yesterday, today, tomorrow" 2021, from September 30 to October 1, 2021, as part of the thematic presentations.</p> <p>In Zadar (Croatia) from 25-29. April 2022, the 4th Adriatic flyway conference was held, as part of the project "Save the Adriatic Flyway", under the leadership of the German foundation EuroNatur and with funding from Swiss MAVA Foundation. 71 participants from 13 countries attended the conference. The main objectives of the project are to prevent poaching pressure on birds and establishing the so-called non-hunting areas on the mentioned wetlands - places where bird hunting will be completely prohibited in order to tens of thousands of birds could rest in peace during their migration or wintering. The ReRec team presented the activities of the CEPF project and the work entitled "Impact of wind farms on the Adriatic Flyway in Bosnia and Herzegovina" (Cukteras, Dalmatin, Vekic). The Zadar Declaration was adopted, which calls on the competent national and international bodies to devote themselves</p>

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				more to solving the problem illegal killing of birds and their protection.
2.0	Sustainable use and management of natural resources in KBA Trebižat and development of an Action Plan	2.2	Joint patrols per month, At least 20% of the reported illegal cases are processed by the state attorney.	<p>As a result of this project, 11 reports on illegal activities were written on the supervision, carried out by the Federal Inspector for Nature Protection in cooperation with the members of the Bjelave Fishing Society and Hutovo Blato Nature Park on 17.3. And 18.3. 2022, 21.3.2022. Of these 11 reports, 2 were processed by the cantonal and federal inspectorate. Based on them, the County Inspectorate for Nature Protection ordered that Public Enterprise Hutovo Blato Nature Park remove the illegal installation of fishing nets on Krupa River. It was established that the greatest poaching occurs during the hunting season, but also during the fishing ban - the spawning period.</p> <p>As a result of joint control, poaching of the mentioned fish species has been reduced. During these activities, fishermen noticed irregularities in the exploitation of gravel, and reports were made several times, after which the exploitation was stopped with fines. Based on the ratio of the number of processed reports at the county or federal level to the total number of reports of poaching and exploitation of gravel, 20% of reported illegal cases are processed by the state attorney.</p>
2.0	Sustainable use and management of natural	2.3	Action plan developed and presented	Based on the collected data and activities, consultative meetings with key stakeholders,

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	resources in KBA Trebižat and development of an Action Plan			comprehensive research of the Tihaljina-Mlade-Trebižat area by other experts and members of associations, using equipment (electric generator with sonars, nets, boats, vehicles, etc.), and with systematization and data processing, expert Mr. Sašo Gorjanc created an Action Plan for the conservation of endangered fish species. The action plan contains measures for the protection and preservation of endangered species and a plan for the use of endangered fish species for each of the fishing companies. The Action plan was presented at the final conference, and members of fishing societies and other stakeholders gave positive comments. The plan has been agreed with fishing societies and will become an integral part of their Fishing Basics. The signing of agreements and the creation of the Action Plan created the basis for long-term cooperation and work on the implementation of measures, especially enhanced monitoring and supervision to reduce poaching in the KBA areas.
3.0	Sensitizing the public on the protection and conservation of endangered fish species	3.2	A memorandum of understanding between fisheries associations and stakeholders in order to contribute to water resources management	By signing the Memorandum of understanding between non-governmental organizations and fishing societies, the basis for stronger cooperation on the protection of freshwater ecosystems of KBA (Hutovo blato, Neretva River, Trebižat River) was created. The agreement was signed between ReReC and 20 organizations: Diving Association HZ HB,

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				SREK Vidra Ljubuski, Association Čaplja, Neretva Delta Forum, SRD Amur Grude, Association EHOO Čapljina, Association Ruke Čapljina, Equestrian Club Vranac Čapljina, Public enterprise Parkovi d.o.o. Ljubuški, USR Kravice Ljubuški, Association Pradidova Stina Posusje, Local community Drinovci, Public enterprise Park Prirode HutovoBlato, Tourism organization of the municipality of Čapljina, Association Pangea, Local community Tasovčići, Democratic center Nove Nade, Ecological association Lijepa Nasa Čapljina, SRD Bjelave and Reference Group Čapljina).
4.0	Media promotion of project activities and results	4.1	Active and functional project website (will show all project activities according to time dynamics, supported by photos and statements of participants (more than 10,000 visitors, with the sharing of news and likes - more than 50,000).	For the purpose of the project and its visibility, a website was created on which all activities related to the project were published. After the end of the project, the website www.rerec.ba remained in operation and serves to inform the public about the projects and activities carried out by ReReC.
4.0	Media promotion of project activities and results	4.2	Visibility material distributed and available in relevant sites, a promotional video produced and available on youtube channel, and at least 5 radio/TV appearances and 3 articles in newspapers about project	The visibility and transparency of the project was achieved through the printing of promotional materials: leaflets, posters, billboards and brochures about the KBA areas. All activities are accompanied by announcements in the media. A website www.rerec.ba was created, where information about the activities and results of the project was published.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<p>A short film "Green Travertine" was made about the natural beauties of KBA - the Trebižat River. It shows natural beauty, but also points out all the influences and dangers that threaten the aquatic ecosystem and biodiversity.</p> <p>A special contribution is the participation of ReReC representatives in two ARTE.TV documentaries about the Hutovo Blato protected area (Raue Welten - Wilde Schönheiten - Bosnien und Herzegowina directed by Jeremy Fekete), and the Trebižat river and the Vjetrenica cave (Bosnien und Herzegowina - The Karstic South, Mirjane Momirović).</p> <p>Additional visibility of the project is the publication of the magazine Eko Hercegovina, in which articles are published about CEPF's projects implemented in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as other project initiatives that have been implemented by international donors and EU Funds, and donors that support the competent institutions in BiH.</p>
1.0	Stakeholder empowerment and strengthening the capacities of ReReC	1.5	Organizational audit produced	During the project, two audits were performed by the independent company for auditing and business services Revident. The first audit related to the implementation of the Project and was made for the period 10.10.2020 - 31.12.2020. The second for the total work of the Regional Resource Center for a period of

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				one year, i.e. from 31.8.2020. until 31.8. 2021. Both audits were evaluated positively, that is, no deviation from the prescribed procedure and the law was found.

Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:

Memorandum of Understanding between non-governmental organizations and fishing societies (MUO) - the basis for stronger cooperation on the protection of freshwater ecosystems of the KBA (Hutovo blato, Neretva river, Trebižat river);

Action plan for fish - the basis for stronger cooperation on the protection of freshwater ecosystems of the KBA (Hutovo blato, Neretva river, Trebižat river);

Memorandum of understanding with Metković (Republic of Croatia), and Memorandum of understanding with Kula Norinska (Republic of Croatia) - the basis for joint cooperation on the protection and management of freshwater ecosystems in the cross-border area;

Website www.rerec.ba;

Short film "Green Travertine" about the natural beauty of the Trebižat River;

Two ARTE.TV documentaries about protected areas: Hutovo Blato, Trebižat River and Vjetrenica Cave;

Magazine Eko Hercegovina;

Brochure on KBA areas

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
1.0	Number of initiatives with private sector			3	Hering d.o.o., the company that performs works on the

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	resulting in adoption or maintenance of biodiversity-friendly practices				<p>construction of the Vc road corridor, participated with its representatives in the workshops. Based on discussions with the ReReC team and fishing societies, the company included measures to protect the biological diversity of the fish stock in its operational plans for the construction of corridor Vc.</p> <p>Elektroprivreda - Peć Mlini, representatives participated in project workshops and conferences and expressed their desire to continue cooperation on future projects related to the maintenance of watercourses and the river environment, as well as the protection, management and sustainable use of water resources.</p> <p>Representatives of the company Parkovi d.o.o. participated in project workshops, conferences and project activities. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed as the beginning of joint</p>

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					action on the protection, preservation and use of water resources that will contribute to climate change resistance and the reduction of negative effects on water resources.
2.0	Number of KBAs under improved management and number of hectares covered			42	<p>KBA Hutovo Blato (BIH02): improved visitors management in the Park around river Krupa (28 ha), and Longžina Jaruga site (0.15 ha) through clearing vegetation and deepening river paths to improve spawning and ensure better water flow, as well as increased patrols and better monitoring of species</p> <p>KBA Trebižat (BIH09): improvement in management in Tihaljina (1 ha) i Peć Mlini (0.03 ha) by conducting a campaign for the initiative to establish the protection of the area, better monitoring and</p> <p>KBA Mostarsko Blato (BIH04): improved protection due to increased prevention of poaching, and improved management and monitoring around rivers</p>

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					Vrioštica (10 ha) and Ugrovaca (0.875) ha KBA Neretva delta (BIH07): creation of fishing trail (2 ha)
2.1	Number of threatened freshwater species seeing status improved (i.e., short-term increase in population and/or breeding success)			7	The following project activities contributed to the conservation of endangered fish species: Creating a fishing path in Doljani village on Neretva River, organizing clean-up actions and catching invasive species (pike, <i>Esox Lucius</i>) in Trebižat and Neretva. By implementing these activities, the project envisages improving the condition of endangered fish species (such as <i>Scardinius plotizza</i> (LC), <i>Rutilus basak</i> (LC), <i>Squalius svallize</i> (VU), <i>Phoxinellus adpersus</i> (VU), <i>Proteus anguinus</i> (VU), <i>Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus</i> (VU) by reducing the number of invasive species - pike. ReReC was not able to measure this increase, because members of fishing societies do not keep records of catches. However, in discussions

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					with fishermen about the state of fish populations, they confirmed an increase in population of threatened freshwater species.
2.2	Number of priority CMZ where community stakeholders (e.g., fishers, farmers, etc.) receive economic benefits from adopting practices with positive impacts on biodiversity			4	4 CMZs (Trebizat and Imotsko polje, Neretva delta, Listica rier and Mostarsko Blato, and Tributaries of Lower and Middle Neretva), and by applying the measures prescribed by this Plan, community stakeholders (e.g., fishermen, farmers, etc.) receive economic benefits from adopting practices with positive impacts on biodiversity. Neretva delta and Tributaries of Lower and Middle Neretva: In Nature Park Hutovo Blato, activities such as: photo safaris and educational programs for children and students are carried out in addition to a visit to the museum, and there is the possibility of holding seminars and workshops inside the Park. Trebižat and Imotsko polje: in Peć Mlini, there is an entrance fee to the

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					protected area Ravlić Cave and Tihaljina spring. Public company Parkovi d.o.o. with a ticket that covers three waterfalls (Kravice, Koćuša and Čeveljuša - charge of 10 KM). Just for comparison, in 2019 they had 305 thousand visitors, and this year 2022 they already had 80 % of this amount by the end of July. It is expected that by the end of the year, the number of visitors from 2019 will be exceeded. Mostarsko Blato: bird watching
2.4	Number of Freshwater KBAs in priority CMZ with improved information on biodiversity, shared with stakeholders			4	Establishing management of natural resources within 4 Freshwater KBAs that are covered by project activities has had positive effects on economic benefit and biodiversity Hutovo Blato BIH 02 - state of biodiversity, especially fish and bird populations, Trebižat BIH09 - state of fish stocks and biological diversity within protected areas, Mostarsko Blato BIH04 - state of the bird population and endemic fish species,

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					Neretva river BIH07 - state of fish population and impact on water area. All data are shared with donors, fishing societies, non-governmental organizations and other users. Some data were used to create action plans that were adopted and whose measures will contribute to the sustainable protection, use and management of these resources.

GLOBAL INDICATORS

Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion
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*World Database of Protected Areas

**If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

*** This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
Hutovo blato	BIH02		28
Trebižat	BIH09		1
Mostarsko blato	BIH04		11
Neretva River	BIH07		2

Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
Peć Mlini (Trebižat river)	43.348038	17.307236	25	The project activities that took place in this area (eco-actions, catching invasive species) contributed to improved fisheries, reduced poaching, and the holding of workshops contributed to improved protection and decision-making
River Trebižat (from Kravice waterfall to Božjak)	43.156343	17.608979	4	The project activities that took place in this area (eco-actions, fishing, catching invasive species) contributed to improved fisheries, reduced poaching, and the holding of workshops contributed to improved protection and decision-making
Nuga lake	43.3559	17.3111	25	Holding of workshops contributed to

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
				improved protection and decision-making and improved management of water resources
Doljani – Neretva river	43.040667	17.674664	5	Arrangement of the fishing trail, eco-actions, Fishijada, catching invasive species improved fisheries and protection, reduced poaching
Krenica lake	43.39422	17.3326	9	Organizing Fishijada, eco-actions, catching invasive species contributed to improved fishing and sport fishing

Benefits to Individuals

- Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
81	36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KBA areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina; - Status, protection and conservation of endangered fish species in the KBA area - Neretva delta, Trebižat and Mostarsko Blato; - Poaching and the work of the fish watch service; - Law on Freshwater Fisheries; - Fisheries management plan; - Main guidelines for the protection and sustainable management of biological diversity in KBA areas; - Good management practices of protected areas; - Protection and work of the guard service in KBA; - New legal solutions on freshwater fisheries.

- Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
99	51	During the Fish Festival/Fishijada on Lake Krenica, 3 stands were set up for sale (souvenirs, wine and beers) (25m 9 f)

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
		<p>Uniforms were bought for 7 members of fishing associations (6 m 1 f)</p> <p>Two electric bicycles (4 m)</p> <p>At the Kravice waterfall, there are 4 souvenir shops where 2 people work (2 f)</p> <p>Two sales points for canoes and photo safaris at the Kravice waterfall, where 2 people work, a total of 4 (2m 2 f)</p> <p>On the Trebižat river, 4 associations/artisans organize a canoe safari in which 12 people work (8 m 4 f)</p> <p>Jaz Struge 2 restaurants where 10 people work (6m 4f)</p> <p>Božjak 5 restaurants where 16 people work (10 m 6 f)</p> <p>Koćuša 4 restaurants where 12 people work (9 m 3 f)</p> <p>Teskara 2 restaurant with 8 people working (6 m 2 f)</p> <p>Kravice 6 restaurants where 20 people work (10 m 10 f)</p> <p>Studenci 1 restaurant where 4 people work (1 m 3 f)</p> <p>Tihaljina 1 restaurant where 4 people work (2m 2f)</p>

Benefits to Communities

View the characteristics column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the benefits column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			
Municipality Čapljina – Doljani village	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	50	7
Municipality Ljubuški – Koćuša and Klobuk watrefalls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	20	5
Municipality Grude – Drinovci village	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	30	5
Municipality Široki Brijeg - Borak	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	25	5
Municipality Stolac - part near Bregava river	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	2

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			
Municipality Mostar – Mostarsko Blato	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	12	3
Municipality Grude – Tihaljina village	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	15	3

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the topics column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics															
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	Water management plan	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	The Law on Nature Protection of the West Herzegovina County	Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Law on freshwater fisheries in Herzegovina-Neretva County	Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

“Other” Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
1	Bosnia and Herzegovina	December 31, 2022	long-term preservation of freshwater biodiversity	ReReC participated in the public discussion of the Water Management Plan for the Adriatic Sea in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2022-2027 and made comments for Measure 14.1 Research on improving the knowledge base. ReReC commented on the table of Endemic Species of Freshwater Fish, in which only 11 species are listed, and requested the addition of data. The comments were adopted and fish species were added to the table. This policy is expected to be signed by December 31 2022
2	Bosnia and Herzegovina	December 31, 2022	The procedure for adopting a new law has been initiated Proclamation of the Peć Mlini protected area Proclamation of the protected area	ReReC launched initiatives to enact laws on declaring areas protected - Peć Mlini and Žukovica waterfall. This policy is expected to be signed by December 31 2022

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
			Žukovica (Posušje municipality)	
3	Bosnia and Herzegovina	December 31, 2022	Improved management of water resources and fish stock	At the public hearing, ReReC gave comments for certain measures prescribed by law. This policy is expected to be signed by December 31 2022

Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
Hering d.o.o	Through its operational plans for the creation of corridor Vc, the company Hering d.o.o. implements measures to protect the biological diversity of the fish stock. They transferred funds to the Fishing Society of Bjelava Čapljina as compensation for the previous loss of fish stock due to the construction of a corridor in the area of Čapljina municipality.	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Elektroprivreda HZ-HB Peć Mlini	Elektroprivreda HZ-HB Peć Mlini implements measures to protect the biological diversity of the fish stock in Hutovo blato, Neretva, Imotsko-bekijsko polje, Lake Nuga and Peć Mlini. They compensated for the loss of the fish stock by purchasing fish fry for Neretva River, Trebižat, Krenica and Nuga lakes. For Hutovo Blato, they provided funds for the purchase of equipment for measuring water quality in the Svitava reservoir.	Bosnia and Herzegovina

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
Parkovi d.o.o	Representatives of the company Parkovi d.o.o. participated in project workshops, conferences and project activities. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed as the beginning of joint action on the protection, preservation and use of water resources that will contribute to climate change resistance and the reduction of negative effects on water resources	Bosnia and Herzegovina

Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
ReReC network	2022	Bosnia and Herzegovina	No	<p>SREK Vidra Ljubuski (year established 2004) SRD Amur Grude (year established 2004) Diving Association HZHB (year established 2006) USR Kravice Ljubuški (year established 2018) Protection, use, preservation and management of natural resources through sustainable activities in Herzegovina region</p> <p>Association Ruke Čapljina (year established 2021) Pradidova Stina Posušje (year established 2021) Nove nade (year established 2017) Pangea (year established 2020) Lijepa naša (year established 2017) Referentna grupa (year established 2017)</p>

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
				<p>Strengthening the non-governmental sector through capacity building for sustainable management of Neretva river basin Equestrian Club Vranac Čapljina (year established 2003) Strengthening the non-governmental sector through capacity building for sustainable management of Neretva river basin.</p> <p>Public company Nature park Hutovo blato (year established 1995) Protection, sustainable use of biological diversity and cross-border cooperation on joint management of the Neretva delta area.</p> <p>Public enterprise Parkovi d.o.o. Ljubuški (year established 2013)</p> <p>Modro-zelena Metković (year established 2004) Neretva Delta Forum (year established 2010) EHOO Čapljina (year established 2017) Strengthening the non-governmental sector, establishing partnerships between local authorities and counties, and cross-border cooperation. SRD Bjelave Čapljina (year established 1992) Čaplja association (2010) Networking of organizations with a common goal, protection, improvement of management, sustainable development, increased decision-making, clean water and increased resilience to climate change</p>
Cooperation with Municipality Metković	2019	Croatia	No	memorandum of understanding and joint activities in the cross-border area

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
Cooperation with Municipality Kula Norinska	2021	Croatia	Yes	memorandum of understanding and joint activities in the cross-border area

Sustainable Financing

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
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Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Phoxinellus	pseudalepidotus	Mostar minnow	VU	Catching invasive species, control poaching, fish trails, projects/campaigns to increase protection, education	Decreasing
Chondrostoma	knerii	Dalmation nase	VU	Catching invasive species, control poaching, fish trails, projects/campaigns to increase protection, education	Decreasing
Squalius	svallize	Neretva chub	VU	Catching invasive species, control poaching, fish trails, projects/campaigns to increase protection, education	Decreasing
Delminichthys	adspersus	Spotted minnow	VU	Catching invasive species, control poaching, fish trails, projects/campaigns to increase protection, education	Decreasing

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Proteus	anguinus	Olm	VU	Catching invasive species, control poaching, fish trails, projects/campaigns to increase protection, education	Decreasing

LESSONS LEARNED

We are implementing this type of project for the first time with fishing societies that have a long tradition of existence, and which we thought had minimal references for implementation and participation in activities. Based on our findings that the Ministry approves the Fishery Basics and annual plans, we thought that fishing companies have minimal capacities and knowledge for implementation. However, when we started implementing the project, we encountered a number of weaknesses within the fishing communities, which were sometimes caused by personal or political reasons. Our lesson learned is that we must check and carry out an internal evaluation of future partners before any future project. Only with those who can meet the criteria or are willing to build them by acquiring new knowledge, we can start applying and implementing projects. Also, it is difficult to work and set long-term goals when the political situation in our country is unstable and changing. Without continuity in politics, it is difficult to influence decision-makers to pass laws regulating the work of fishing societies. The leading political structures do not understand this activity as an economic, but as a social category and do not attach great importance to it.

Although efforts have been made to educate members of fishing societies, there is a lack of professional staff to guide them through the entire process: monitoring the situation on the ground, poaching control, assessment of the state of the fish stock, implementation monitoring, promotion and development of sustainable activities. Fishing societies are still only talking about what they should do, but there are no concrete activities, and therefore no corresponding results. Guardians /members are difficult to persuade/force to keep daily records of going out into the field, keep records of daily catches, and to monitor the general condition of the river ecosystem. To overcome these shortcomings, concrete and practical activities on the ground with fish keepers are needed. The governing bodies of fishing societies are not yet at the level where they can impose such standards, norms of behavior and daily recording of catches. Members of administrative bodies are volunteers, they lack motivation and stimulation to implement such activities. Ultimately, they are paid by budgets, but not by results, and it is difficult to change these practices. The political conditions in the counties are not the same, and fishing societies behave quite differently. The situation is the same in the municipalities. Stronger municipalities such as Čapljina finance their fishing societies, while Ljubuški, Grude, Široki Brijeg fishing societies are self-financed from daily and annual permits. This is insufficient to carry out daily activities. ReReC sees the solution in providing funds for the work of fish guards through international funds, with the condition that the entire recording procedure according to the Fishery Basis is imposed.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

In order to ensure the sustainability of the project and to replicate it in the future, it is necessary to work on the establishment of new protected areas along with zoning and pass laws that will be applicable in practice.

As part of its activities, ReReC participated in the initiative and drafting of the following laws that will soon be adopted:

The Law on Nature Protection of the West Herzegovina County - the procedure for adopting a new law has been initiated

Law on freshwater fisheries in Herzegovina-Neretva County - amendments to the law
Law on Freshwater Fisheries in West Herzegovina County - Launched change initiative
Proclamation of the Peć Mlini protected area - Launched an initiative to enact a law on declaring the area protected
Proclamation of the protected area Žukovica (Posušje municipality) - Launched an initiative to enact a law on declaring the area protected

When laws are enacted, their implementation and compliance will lead to full sustainability. It is necessary to encourage sustainable activities in the area that will be used as good examples of practice in the promotion of the protection and preservation of natural resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

The project strengthened the technical and human capacities of fishing associations, non-governmental organizations and Nature Park Hutovo Blato through educational workshops, technical equipment and professional and security assistance in performing regular work of control, monitoring and verification of the legality of the work of individuals and economic entities in the fishing sector.

The project contributed to greater awareness of the public and other stakeholders about the importance of protecting and preserving freshwater ecosystems, and thus the fishing stock. With the prepared Action Plan, fishing societies and scientific institutions are able to work on long-term plans for the protection and improvement of the state of the fishing stock in Neretva Delta and Mostarsko Blato.

By signing the MUO, current problems and threats affecting the overall biological diversity begin to be resolved: poaching, illegal exploitation of gravel, uneven operation of the hydroelectric power plant, illegal construction, intensive tourism, intensive agriculture, etc., which ultimately results in sustainable management of the entire catchment area.

This project directly supported the daily work of the security service in the Park. Their legal role in preventing poaching has increased, as has their safety on duty.

Through cooperation and synergy with fishermen, guards, non-governmental associations, police, inspectors and the Agency, local communities increase the quality of biodiversity protection in the KBA areas located in the watershed.

The local community finally got an example of control (Fishermen's Society), and is able to develop sustainable activities in which the local population participates equally through the organization of sports competitions, gastronomic manifestations, participation in sports and recreational activities and events.

However, the majority of fishing societies still have undeveloped capacities and are not able to control environmental problems, nor are they able to participate in the decision-making process (such as the impact of plants and facilities for aquatic ecosystems - construction of dams, infrastructure works - Vc corridor, dredging ponds, use of pesticides, use of raw materials - exploding gravel, etc.).

There is a lack of an expert within fishing societies who will be able to oppose all phenomena and activities that negatively affect the state of aquatic ecosystems with arguments and facts.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Our recommendation is to find a way to finance an expert who will be available to fishing societies. In this way, they will be able to actively participate in the process of making decisions and laws related to freshwater fisheries. The implementation of the fishing base and annual plans, the implementation of monitoring and records, and the education and promotion of other members of society and other users on the importance of protection, preservation and use of water resources and fish stock.

An additional recommendation is to find a way to finance one person/fishkeeper in each fishing company. This person must go through the entire training cycle to be able to respond to the needs imposed by the law and the fishing base. Or to choose one fishing association that has the potential, the desire and the will to enter such a process of education and training, using good practice examples from the environment. The same association will be an example of good practice for other fishing societies in all municipalities. It is necessary to encourage fishing companies more with technical support and capacity building.

As ReReC is made up of several non-governmental organizations and by signing a cooperation agreement with other NGOs from the region, the basis for the creation of a strategic plan for the management of natural resources was created. According to the Strategic Plan, ReReC will be responsible for the implementation of activities for the protection, preservation and use of natural ecosystems for non-governmental organizations, and would have a leading role.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	\$385,000.00
Breakdown of Additional Funding	<p>50,000 \$ project financed by Center for the Promotion of Civil Societyco-financing of current project by CPCD</p> <p>225,000 \$ compensation measure for fishermen - Elektroprivreda</p> <p>Additionl money secured for future projects:</p> <p>50,000 \$ Environment protection fund – inventory of Neretva delta biodiversity</p> <p>50,000 \$ Environment protection fund – Protection of Zukovica waterfall</p> <p>10,000\$ Ministry of Economy HNŽ - Strengthening of competencies associated with social entrepreneurship fond</p>

INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

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