Small Grants – Final Completion and Impact Report

Instructions: CEPF requires that each grantee report on project results and impacts at the end of their grant. To monitor CEPF's global indicators, CEPF will aggregate the data that you submit with data from other grantees, to determine the overall impact of CEPF investment. The aggregated results of all grantees will be reported on in our annual impact report and other communications materials. Your Final Completion and Impact Report will be posted on the CEPF website.

Ensure that the information provided pertains to the entire project, from start date to project end date.

Please complete all fields and respond to all questions listed below.

Organization Legal Name: Center for Protection and Research of Birds
Project Title: Restoration of Skadar Lake wet meadows for sustainable and traditional land use
Grant Number: CEPF - 112339
Date of Completion of this Report: 29.06.2022.
CEPF Hotspot: Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot
Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 3: Promote the maintenance of traditional land-use practices necessary for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity in priority corridors of high cultural and biodiversity value.

Grant Amount: 27.470,04 USD
Project Dates: 01.06.2021 - 31.05.2022.

PART I: Overview

1. **Implementation Partners for this Project** ***(list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project)***

Number	Name of the partner/Stakeholders	How they were involved in the project	Additional information
1.	Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro	The Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro, as a management authority for the National Park ,,Skadar Lake" gave instructions on	

		what could be done and what is forbidden in accordance with the law regulations that are applied in National Parks, which was extremely important regarding activities implementation. Along with the Environmental Agency of Montenegro, they participated in the issuance of the permit for the mowing of invasive plant species False indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*) and Rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*). This institution as a relevant stakeholder also participated in a Study visit to Nature reserve ,,Lonjsko polje" where they learned about different methods of invasive plant species removal and strategy that concerns the maintenance of cleared plots and control of the further spread. Their participation in the rest of the project activities was planned from the beginning of the project, but besides CZIP best efforts , unfortunately the support and participation of representatives of Public Enterprise of National Parks was lacking.	
2.	Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro (EPA)	Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro was another relevant stakeholder as the main authority that issues permits for scientific biodiversity research which was conducted during this	

		project, as well as the permissions for the removal of invasive plant species along with the instructions for post mowing actions.	
3.	Local community ,,Virpazar" and ,,Bijelo Polje"	Local communities gave an important contribution during the project while showing interest in invasive plant species removal and strategy development based on their experience since their own land is getting overgrown and unusable. Along with the above-mentioned, they also had an interest in the further maintenance of the cleared plot, where local Zlatko Rašović mowed the meadow a couple of times during the summer, continuing first mowing conducted by a local person hired. Communication with the local people was facilitated by the local community Virpazar president, which was a significant key regarding trust gaining.	
4.	Faculty of Science and Mathematics and Biotechnical Faculty	The faculty of Science and Mathematics was consulted in terms of invasive plant species management and autochthon plant species that could be used as hedge vegetation, since botanists from the faculty could contribute with their expertise and knowledge. As procurement of an autochthon cow breed buša was one of the activities important for further maintenance, CZIP	

		consulted livestock experts from the Biotechnical Faculty before procurement. They gave us instructions regarding the breed that is most suitable for the conditions met at the wet meadows of Skadar Lake, which confirmed that the buša breed or its mix are the most suitable for this area and amorpha grazing.	
5.	Nature reserve ,,Lonjsko polje"	Nature reserve "Lonjsko polje" was the stakeholder that had a key role in building CZIP capacities for developing our own strategy for invasive plant species removal based on the knowledge they gained throughout the years. They served as an example of good practice since they have great knowledge of different methods of maintenance and different levels of success as a result. Thanks to the study visit organized in the beginning of the project, we managed to find the most appropriate solution for our pilot clearing-up actions. Furthermore, after the study visit, we continued communication and gained help with the most critical points that occurred during the project.	

6. Summarize the overall results of your project

The project ,,*Restoration of Skadar Lake wet meadows for sustainable and traditional land use*" was implemented in the area of National Park Skadar Lake as a pioneer project, with the aim to introduce new methodologies for invasive species management and control, along with bringing back the traditional practice of livestock grazing of Skadar Lake wet meadows.

As the main goal of the project, 1ha of wet meadow, previously covered with invasive plant species False indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*) and Rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium),* is mowed and cleared, while long-term maintenance of this surface is ensured through the donation of eleven individuals of mixed cow breed buša, indigenous for the Skadar Lake area. Livestock will continue grazing on the selected wet meadow, while ensuring that the meadow does not overgrow with the above-mentioned invasive plant species. Furthermore, local communities were involved during the project implementation and educated on the biodiversity richness of National Park Skadar Lake, the importance of preserving the wet meadows as an important habitat for different species, and land management in a manner that does not endanger the species present while being empowered to continue with the traditional land-use and act as important actors in biodiversity conservation of this area.

7. Briefly describe actual progress towards each planned long-term and short-term impact (as stated in the approved proposal)
List each long-term impact from your proposal

a. Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	**Impact Summary**
Contribute to the increase of knowledge on the removal of invasive species, sustainable wet meadows maintenance and recognition of benefits of hedges and wildlife conservation	Since methods of eradication and maintenance of the wet meadows are learned and adopted from Nature Park ,,Lonjsko Polje", in Croatia, it is expected that replicated practice will be successful and will prevent the regrowth of invasive plant species on the treated selected wet meadow in NP ,,Skadar lake". The gained knowledge will be used in the future to improve the condition of overgrown wet meadows, as habitats with great importance for the biodiversity of this area. A brochure concerning the impact of False indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*) on the biodiversity of Skadar Lake wet meadows is distributed to relevant stakeholders and will contribute to a better understanding of invasive plant species ecology, its impact on important plant and animal species, and conservation of the biodiversity of wet meadows.
Contribute to the establishment of a sustainable traditional livestock grazing	The donation of eleven cows of indigenous breed buša which will maintain wet meadows clean by grazing, will serve as a good example to the local community in terms of traditional and sustainable use of wet meadows. Not only does this contribute to proper land use, but it is of huge importance for preserving the incredible biodiversity characteristic

	for this type of habitat. If this activity brings a good result in the future, we believe that it will be a motivation for the rest of the local population to get involved in similar projects in the future and to contribute to the preservation of the traditional way of life and sustainable use of wet meadows.
Return of native species to the newly cleared land and planted hedges	Research of the biodiversity of Skadar Lake wet meadows along with the impact of False indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*) on different biodiversity groups was done during the project. The impact on biodiversity has been shown to be largely negative, and by applying the correct method of invasive species removal will bring benefits to the living world of wet meadows, primarily important species such as, for example, Albanian water frog (*Pelophylax shqipericus*), an endemic species to which Skadar Lake wet meadows are a natural habitat. Furthermore, the removal of the invasive plant species contributes to the expansion of the area previously reduced by overgrowth. Due to the enlarged territory native species can spread or breed in the future, but it is expected that indigenous plants and animal species will need time to return.
Contribute to the improvement of the relationship between local communities and governmental institutions	During the implementation of the project, meetings with representatives of different institutions (Public Enterprise for National Parks, Municipalities, Faculty of Biology, Environmental Protection Agency, local communities, local people, etc.) were held on several occasions, for the purpose of establishing cooperation on the project and enhancing good communication between local communities and institutions. On several occasions local communities stated strongly that cooperation with the institutions (especially National Parks) is lacking, so CZIP worked on overcoming these issues and re-establishing good communication between the Parks and the local population. Unfortunately, more work, time, and understanding on both parts are needed in order to achieve the best management model taking into consideration the experience and points of view that local people have on one side and institutions on another side.

b. Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	**Impact Summary**
1.10 people will have committed to long-term IAS control covering 10 ha of the KBA	Establishing communication, gaining the trust, and finding locals interested in project participation represented a challenge. While we did not manage to commit ten people to long-term IAS control, we did succeed to interest a local community Virpazar and 4 locals from the Bijelo Polje, Gostilj, and Kurilo villages. In order to achieve more institutional engagement and to motivate them to work with the local people, as well as to gain knowledge on the IAS control, the representatives of the Municipality of Golubovci were participants in a study visit to Lonjsko Polje, and contacted multiple times during the project implementation. Since engaged locals showed interest in continuing the traditional practice of grazing and removing the False indigo bush after the project completion, CZIP requested a meeting with president of Municipality Golubovci to establish potential cooperation between the Municipality, the locals, and CZIP and seek help in equipment needed for mowing. Meeting between president of Municipality Golubovci and CZIP was organized after the project was finished, the main issues regarding the amorpha removal were presented and it was agreed for the Municipality to consider the budget for mowing amorpha as part of the next agro budget at the municipality level. MoU with Municipality was not signed during the project, but talked through for the beginning of next year where the mutual activities will be established.
2.At the end of the project, the level of invasive species within 10 hectares of the KBA, will have reduced to less than 1ha	Eradicating False indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*) from 10 hectares to 1 hectare with previously planned equipment (saws and sickles), was not possible due to the large area overgrown with the old stems of this species in the targeted area. Based on the communication and consultations made with the regional project manager and the fact that heavier mechanization was needed for the mowing, 1ha of surface area has been successfully cleared from invasive plant species.
3.Improved land management by 5 hectares planted hedges and established cooperation with 10 stakeholders	Along with the changes made regarding the reduction of the mowing surface, planting beneficial hedge vegetation activity was changed since the selected wet meadow is already grown with its

	native hedge vegetation which was kept during mowing as an implementation of a lesson learned in Lonjsko polje. Throughout the project, new cooperation with the local population was established and cooperation on similar activities in the future was agreed. 1 local remains interested in continuing the practice of livestock grazing and maintaining the different meadows clean, together with 3 locals not directly participating in the project during its implementation, but contributed to the mowing after the end of the project. Support from the Municipality in the form of equipment (such as extension for tractor and fuel expenses) is needed. The signing of MoU with the stakeholders was not accomplished, but for the purpose of project sustainability as well as ensuring the proper care of donated cows, the contract was signed with the local Zlatko Rasovic, where his obligations to care for and take the cows out to pasture were defined for the next 2 years. Cooperation is established with National Park Skadar Lake, Municipalities, Faculty of Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Biotechnology, Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism, local communities during the meetings held as well as two workshops and field work done in the project area.

8. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Although the procurement of purebred cow buša was planned while writing the project proposal as a requirement that will ensure natural meadow maintenance, difficulties occurred with finding the purebred cow since it is almost extinct in Montenegro, as well as the region. On the other hand, the most similar cattle (mixed buša that are accustomed to eating False indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*) was found in Vranjina, a village in National Park Skadar Lake, which enabled to proceed with the first plan and the most suitable choice of cow breed and at the same time to gain new cooperation with the local person/cattle breeder. Now the cattle breeder found one more reason and motivation to keep breeding this species, while getting familiar with IAS control and management during the field work, workshops and meetings held with the local breeder. This will contribute to the control and removal strategy of invasive plant species False indigo bush in the Skadar Lake area since breeding indigenous cow breed that feeds with invasive plant species is necessary for ensuring the success after clearing selected plots and removing the invasive plant species, which was unexpected positive impact.

Although it is early to bring conclusions, our expectations are positive and we think that this pilot project will have a great impact in terms of IAS control and proper management of already overgrown plots in the National Park Skadar Lake, along with the improvement of traditional cattle breeding that is decreasing in this area. It is expected that the practice will enhance the maintenance of high biodiversity in this area, which is currently decreasing due to the overgrowing of invasive plant species.

PART II: Project Products/Deliverables

5. List each product/deliverable as stated in your approved proposal and describe the results for each of them:

#	Deliverable Description	Deliverable Update
1.1	Improved knowledge and skills of local community on clearing the meadows from invasive species	Knowledge on IAS management and control was gained during the study visit to Lonjsko polje, organized from 15 – 18th September 2021. Relevant stakeholders (The Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro, Municipality of Golubovci, media TV Vijesti representative) and the CZIP team (6 participants in total) were introduced to a successful strategy that Lonjsko polje developed for control of False indigo spreading and useful eradication methodologies that can be replicated in the Skadar Lake area. The local community and other relevant stakeholders participated in two trainings held in Virpazar. First, one-day training on IAS eradication methods was organized on the 4th of November 2021 (12 participants attended). The second one-day training on important animal species was held on the 5th of April 2022 (11 participants in total). Through several meetings CZIP held with locals from Virpazar, Bijelo Polje, Vranjina, Kurilo, and Gostilj, they got acquainted with IAS in the Skadar lake area, methods for its removal, negative impact on biodiversity, and other relevant issues.
2.1	Cleared state-owned parcels from invasive species	State-owned parcel in Viprazar, selected for mowing, was mowed by the engaged local person. The parcel was cut during the second half of May 2022 and finished at the beginning of June 2022 since the

		meadow was flooded until the second half of May and mowing was not possible before. 1ha of the surface was cleaned from IAS False indigo bush and Rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium)*. Due to the changed methodology for IAS eradication compared to the originally planned one, there were no joint actions with locals for cleaning the meadow from invasive plants. Instead, the 1ha meadow was mowed on two occasions by a hired local person.
2.2	Established a small incentive scheme for locals to continue grazing their livestock on cleared parcels.	Local person from the Skadar lake area Zlatko Rašović, local cattle breeder and milk producer, was involved in the project implementation from the beginning and showed great interest in cooperation, therefore was selected for the donation of mixed cow breed buša and electrical fences. Contract for the donation of cows (11 in total) and electrical fences (500 meters in total) was carefully done in order to secure the sustainability of the project and wellbeing of the donated cows.
3.1	Educated local community on planting and maintaining hedges for sustainable pasture management	On the two trainings for the local community, participants were introduced to the best eradication methodology that is applied in Lonjsko polje and could be replicated in the project area. Furthermore, locals gained knowledge on sustainable pasture management in a way that is not affecting biodiversity in a negative way and is acceptable for the species present. During the study visit to Lonjsko polje and after the consultations with experts from the Faculty of Biology and Faculty of Agriculture it was concluded that planting on the selected meadow is not suitable since it is already grown with native hedges.
4.1	Prepared study on the importance and values of biodiversity and awareness raised among local community.	A brochure on the biodiversity richness of the Skadar lake wet meadows along with the invasive plant species characteristics with a special focus on False indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*) and eradication measures was prepared. The brochure covers biodiversity research (insects, birds, mammals, plants, amphibians, and reptiles), and this research

		shows the possible impact that the spreading of False indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticose*) will have on each individual biodiversity group in the future. The research was conducted by five experienced experts mostly in the summer and autumn since the meadows stayed flooded until May which means that the spring aspect couldn't be done. The research was conducted over five days for all biodiversity groups, and although 94 species of insects, three species of amphibians, three species of reptiles, eight species of mammals, 40 species of plants, and 66 species of birds were recorded, furthermore detailed research is needed in the future. This research is presented in a form of a study compiled from scientific reports which are delivered in accompanying documents. 100 copies of the brochure were disseminated during the final event for the study presentation to the participants, as well as handed to NP Skadar Lake for the future visitors of the visitor center in Vranjina. The brochure is also distributed to the Municipality of Golubovci in order to reach more local residents that are often visiting Municipality premises.
5.1	Established communication with stakeholders for support in land management	Communication with stakeholders (representatives of Public Enterprise of National Parks, Skadar Lake National Park, Environmental Protection Agency, Local Community Crmnica, local population, Faculty of Biology, Faculty of Biotechnology and Agriculture) was continuous and the 8 meetings were held in total. Although the plan was to engage the representatives of Public Enterprise for National Parks and to build their capacities regarding eradication methods of IAS and sustainable land use in the area of Skadar lake, representatives were not keen on engaging and cooperating on the implementation of the activities, besides participating in the study visit to NP ,,Lonjsko Polje". Despite our best efforts, a couple of requested meetings and invitations for participation in project activities, we were not able to come to an agreement with Public Enterprise on signing the MoU.

		On the other hand, we gained support from local communities, especially locals from Vranjina and Kurilo, who expressed great interest in project activities and showed a willingness to continue the methodology of removing False indigo bush and keep the meadows clean through livestock grazing in the future. In order to facilitate such activities in other areas of Skadar Lake and to seek for proper equipment, with the initiative of locals as well, CZIP requested a meeting with the Municipality of Golubovci and the meeting was held after the project termination, where the IAS issue was discussed together with further plans with municipality budget and possible funds for locals for IAS control activities.
6.1	All Reports submitted to CEPF within a deadline	Completed tracking tools, safeguard documents and reports: CSTT, GTT, METT, safeguard documents (environmental impact assessment, pest management plan, health & safety plan), progress and final narrative and financial reports

6. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Brochure ,,Bagremac (*Amorpha fruticosa*) - opasnost po ekosistem plavnih livada Skadarskog jezera/ The False Indigo Bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*) - danger to the ecosystem of Skadar Lake wet meadows" is one of the products of the project resulted from merging of expert's research on different biodiversity groups of Skadar Lake wet meadows - plants, insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals. The brochure contains the ecology of False indigo bush, the main characteristics of IAS, and methods for their eradication.

The brochure contains necessary information concerning invasive plant species ecology (like means of transport and spreading, negative impact these species have, etc.) and invasive plant species recorded in the Skadar Lake area, law regulations in Montenegro regarding this topic, developed methodology on eradication and removal of invasive plant species False indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*) and Rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium)* used during this project, and good practices adopted from and used in Nature Park ,,Lonjsko polje". Furthermore, this brochure contains information on the biodiversity of wet meadows of the Skadar Lake area along with the impact that the invasive plant species False indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*) has on every biodiversity group, which is mostly negative.

The research showed great biodiversity value of wet meadows and it will serve as a great step towards advocating for Skadar Lake wet meadows management mechanisms and policy in the future. The biodiversity analysis, composed of scientific reports made by engaged experts, is extremely important due to the fact that the biodiversity of this area is decreasing at the expense of the spreading of the IAS, which should be considered as an alarm for the future management of the Skadar Lake wet meadows.

Please find the above-mentioned brochure and scientific reports in the accompanying documents.

PART III: Lessons, Sustainability, Safeguards and Financing

Lessons Learned

7. Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

"Lessons learned" are experiences you have gained that you think would be valuable successes worth replicating or practices that you would do differently if you had the chance. Consider lessons that would inform project design and implementation, and any other lessons relevant to the conservation community. CEPF Lessons Learned Guidelines are available here: https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/cepf-lessons-learned-guidelines-english.pdf.

One of the greatest lessons learned during the implementation of the project was that research and consultations on eradication methods should have been done in more detail during the preparation of the project proposal. The removal of False indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*) was designed to be done with saws and sickles, but the removal actually required heavier mechanization such as a trimmer with steel blades or a tractor with special extensions, which was not available to us. Although during the preparation of the project proposal CZIP organized a meeting with Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro where it was learned that National Parks own a tractor that could be used for the project purposes, that was not the case during the project implementation - National Parks did not know what happened to the machine nor could it be used for eradication of False indigo bush, so the other solution was needed. A described situation made the implementation of important mowing activity much more difficult, and we had to find another solution for the removal of amorpha.

Acquiring permission for mowing was one of the greatest challenges we faced and the one that prolonged the activity until May 2022. Mowing had to be postponed to the spring, instead to be done in autumn as planned. Besides the fact that the new *Law on alien and invasive alien species in Montenegro* is not being implemented yet, and that our request was the first one of this kind, False indigo is not included in *Invasive alien plant species of Montenegro* and there is no prescribed way for its removal. That was one of the reasons issuing this permission was prolonged. More complications occurred due to poor communication between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Public Enterprise National Parks of Montenegro. In order to resolve the issue, CZIP maintained constant communication with EPA, as well as representatives of National Parks. As the permitting process has taken much longer than expected and due to the bad weather conditions, the water level rose so mowing had to be postponed.

Timeframe and duration of the project could be more adequate when it comes to the implementation of planned activities on a such a specific habitat - the wet meadows in this area are flooded for about 6-8 months depending on the weather condition, so completion of mowing activity (along with the permission delay) was quite a challenge.

Also, finding indigenous, purebred cow buša in Montenegro was very difficult since the purebred buša has disappeared from our area. Aware of this problem, we organized consultative meetings with the Faculty of Biotechnology and agriculture expert in order to get more information about potential buša keepers in Montenegro, and to get contacts. We asked for contacts via posts on social media networks, as well, so it could reach more people. Since there are very few people in Montenegro that are dealing with cattle breeding, we found only one person, a local from Vranjina who still keeps cows that are already used to eat False indigo and live in the climate of the project area, and which represent the closest breed - mix of indigenous buša and other breeds.

One valuable and positive lesson learned throughout this whole process is that local communities and local people are very aware that the invasive plant species False indigo bush represents a problem and are willing to engage in control of its spreading or in the removal process, which is of huge importance for any future activity in terms of invasive plant species control in this area.

The challenges and discoveries we faced during this project are concerning the institutional infrastructure and collaboration with local communities and local people. The communication between the mentioned stakeholders was not satisfactory and that is the reason why we had a lot of difficulties in terms of engagement of local people in the project. Due to the bad experience with institutional disinterest in the past, they were not keen on collaborating in the beginning, but through a series of meetings and trainings, we managed to overcome that and achieve cooperation with the local population.

Sustainability / Replication

8. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

Continuation of regular mowing and cattle grazing on a cleaned wet meadow, should ensure the sustainability of the project in terms of preventing the regrowth of the False indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*), the targeted invasive plant species, in the selected area. This will also contribute to conserving biodiversity along with the return of grazing and traditional land use. To ensure sustainability, CZIP worked on the formalization of cooperation with Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro by requesting a meeting with the executive director of the mentioned institution for the purpose of signing the MoU that would oblige NP Skadar Lake to mow the selected plot at least once a year. Unfortunately, this effort left with no result since the answer of Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro was absent.
However, the local community that was engaged during the implementation of the project expressed the willingness to contribute to sustainability by ensuring the mowing of the selected plot in the future period.

A developed methodology that implies that regular mowing combined with regular cattle grazing could be successful in invasive plant species control by being easily replicated on other overgrown plots by Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro in cooperation with municipalities and local communities willing to engage in this process. The mentioned methodology is an example of good practice, and if replicated in the future by relevant authorities it would secure long-term IAS control while bringing back the traditional practices as well.

Safeguards

9. If not listed as a separate Deliverable and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social or environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered.

1. Relevant safeguard;
   Project triggered safeguard questions concerning invasive plant species removal, disposal, methods of eradication, disturbance caused by using mechanization, health and safety equipment used during the mowing process, and COVID-19 health and safety measures.
2. Target groups/stakeholders;
   Target groups and stakeholders were local people, local communities, municipalities in whose jurisdiction the area of National Park ,,Skadar Lake" is, and Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro;
3. Results/impact of the implementation of Safeguard;
   Results of implementation of Safeguard are:
   - obtained permission for mowing from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the instructions for the invasive plant species disposal and mowing procedure, along with the health and safety equipment (gloves, protective glasses, boots, etc.) we had to provide for the persons involved in mowing;
   - carefully chosen location for implementation of mowing activity in order to minimize disturbance impact which was successful because mowing was done in an area that has a port for small boats, which implies that minimum disturbance is already present in the area. Consultations with representative ornithologists were conducted too, in order to avoid any potential breeding areas in the chosen wet meadow, if present.
   -In terms of COVID-19 measures taken, the required distance was maintained, but masks were not obligatory at the moment, so they weren't used.
4. Grievances;
   No grievances were received, although stakeholders were introduced to the grievance mechanism form during meetings, training, etc. The grievance mechanism was published on the CZIP website as well.

Additional Funding

10. Provide details of any additional funding that you have secured to support this project.

(Not applicable to this project)

a. Total additional funding (US$)

b. Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source.

Donor	Type of Funding	Amount

Additional Comments/Recommendations

11. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF.

During the implementation of the project, a number of unexpected circumstances occurred that led to the either prolongation or the change of certain project activities. The CEPF regional implementation team showed great understanding for all unforeseen situations, and as it was informed about them in a timely manner, met us on several occasions and helped us to successfully complete the project. We are grateful for all the given support and understanding that helped us overcome obstacles during the project implementation.

PART IV: Impact at Portfolio and Global Level

Contribution to Portfolio Indicators

12. In order to measure the results of CEPF investment strategy at the hotspot level, CEPF uses a set of Portfolio Indicators which are presented in the Ecosystem Profile of each hotspot. Please list these below and report on the project's contribution(s) to them.

Indicator	Actual Numeric Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
2.0 Number of hectares of KBAs with enhanced protection or management	1	KBA-MNE13 Skadar lake One-hectare area was cleaned from two invasive plant species by mowing and will be maintained by grazing of indigenous cattle breed buša. This is expected to contribute to the better management of the already protected Skadar Lake area in terms

		of invasive plant species control.
2.3 Number of men and women with improved economic well-being in relation with traditional practices	3	Three persons (all men) directly benefited due to fulfilling mowing services, receiving cow donation, individual from whom the cows were purchased, while all activities mentioned are part of traditional practices.
2.4 Number of Freshwater KBAs in priority CMZ with improved information on biodiversity, shared with stakeholders	1	MNE13 Skadar lake The research was done for the following biodiversity groups: insects, birds, mammals, plants, amphibians, and reptiles. Research of engaged experts have been combined in a brochure that shows the impact of False indigo bush spreading on each individual biodiversity group. Also, the brochure explains the IAS ecology and ways to combat its spread.
3.3 The number of Local Authorities recognizing and supporting traditional practices in favor of biodiversity	2	Two local municipalities (MZ Crmnica and Golubovci) realized the significance of species control activities and expressed the willingness to cooperate on invasive plant species control issue.

Contribution to Global Indicators

Please report on all Global Indicators that pertain to your project.

13. Benefits to Individuals

13a. The number of men and women receiving structured training.
Report on the number of men and women that have benefited from structured training due to your project, such as financial management, beekeeping, horticulture, farming, biological surveys, or how to conduct a patrol.

# of men receiving structured training *	# of women receiving structured training *	Topic(s) of Training
2	4	Study visit to NP ,,Lonjsko polje"
8	4	Training on invasive plant species removal and eradication methods
5	6	Training on beneficial hedge vegetation and animal species
14	14	**Total number**

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received structured training in beekeeping, and 3 of these also received structured training in project management, the total number of men who benefited from structured training should be 5.*

13b. The number of men and women receiving cash benefits.
Report on the number of men and women that had an increase in income or cash (monetary) benefits due to your project from activities such as tourism, handicraft production, increased farm output, increased fishery output, medicinal plant harvest, or payment for conducting patrols.

# of men receiving cash benefits*	# of women receiving cash benefits*	Description of Benefits
1	0	Cow donation
1	0	Local that sold buse cows
1	0	Mowing service
3	0	**Total number**

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received cash benefits due to tourism, and 3 of these also received cash benefits from increased income due to handicrafts, the total number of men who received cash benefits should be 5.*

14. Protected Areas

Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

Report on the number of hectares of protected areas that have been created or expanded as a result of your 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 PA*	Country(s)	Original # of Hectares**	# of Hectares Newly Protected	Year of Legal Declaration/ Expansion	Longitude***	Latitude***

** If possible please provide a shape file of the protected area to CEPF.*

*** Enter the original total size, excluding the results of your project. If the protected area was not existing before your project, then enter zero.*

**** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456). To obtain the latitude and longitude of your protected area, use Google Maps, right-click on the center of your protected area, select "What's here?", and copy the latitude and longitude appearing in the popup window.*

15. Key Biodiversity Area Management

Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) with improved management

Report on the number of hectares in KBAs with improved management, where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation, as a result of your project. Examples of improved management include, but are not restricted to increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices. Do not record the entire area covered by the project - only record the number of hectares that have improved management.

If you have recorded part or all of a KBA as newly protected for the indicator entitled "protected areas", and you have also improved its management, you should record the relevant number of hectares for both this indicator and the "protected areas" indicator.

Name of KBA	KBA Code from Ecosystem Profile	# of Hectares Improved *
Skadar Lake	*MNE13*	*1*

** Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were improved due to the implementation of a fire management regime in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were improved due to invasive species removal in the second year, the total number of hectares with improved management would be 500.*

Improved management of 1ha area in National Park ,,Skadar Lake" refers to eradication and removal of two invasive plant species on the selected plot that is situated in the NP territory, along with the better management of maintenance of this meadow in the future by grazing, which was the traditional practice of this area in the past.

16. Production landscapes

Number of hectares of production landscape with strengthened management of biodiversity

Please report on the number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity, as a result of your project. A production landscape is defined as a landscape where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

- For an area to be considered as having "strengthened management of biodiversity," it can benefit from a wide range of interventions such as best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified, and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.
- Areas that are protected are not included under this indicator, because their hectares are counted elsewhere.
- A Production Landscape can include part or all of an unprotected KBA.

Name of Production Landscape*	# of Hectares with Strengthened Management**	Latitude***	Longitude***	Description of Intervention

** If the production landscape does not have a name, provide a brief descriptive name for the landscape.*

***Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were strengthened due to certification in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were strengthened due to new harvesting regulations in the second year, the total number of hectares strengthened to date would be 500.*

**** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456). To obtain the latitude and longitude of your production landscape, use google maps, right-click on the center of your production landscape, select "What's here?", and copy the latitude and longitude appearing in the popup window.*

(Not applicable to this project)

17. Benefits to Communities

CEPF wants to record the non-cash benefits received by communities, which can differ to those received by individuals because the benefits are available to a group. CEPF also wants to record, to the extent possible, the number of people within each community who are benefiting. Please report on the characteristics of the communities, the type of benefits that have been received during the project, and the number of men/boys and women/girls from these communities that have benefited, as a result of your project. If exact numbers are not known, please provide an estimate.

Please provide information for all communities that have benefited from project start to project completion.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics (mark with x)							Country of Community	Type of Benefit (mark with x)									# of Beneficiaries	
	Small land owners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*		Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g.	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional	Improved representation and decision-making in governance	Improved access to ecosystem services	# of men and boys benefitting	# of women and girls benefitting
Virpazar	x							Montenegro							x		x	177	150

Bijelo Polje	x							Montenegro							x		x	150	95
Bistrice	x							Montenegro							x		x	120	100

*If you marked “Other” to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

Other in this case refers to a group of small cattle breeders.

18. Policies, Laws, and Regulations

Report on policies, laws, and regulations with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended, as a result of your project. "Policies" pertain to statements of intent formally adopted or pursued by a government, including at the sectoral or sub-national level. "Laws and regulations" pertain to official rules or orders, prescribed by the authority. Any law, regulation, decree, or order is eligible to be included.

18a. Name, scope, and topic of the policy, law, or regulation that has been amended or enacted as a result of your project

No.		Scope (mark with x)			Topic(s) addressed (mark with x)															
	Name of Law, Policy or Regulation	Local	National	International	Agriculture	Climate	Ecosystem Management	Education	Energy	Fisheries	Forestry	Mining and Quarrying	Planning/Zoning	Pollution	Protected Areas	Species Protection	Tourism	Transportation	Wildlife Trade	Other*
1																				
2																				
…																				

*** If you selected "other", please give a brief description of the main topics addressed by the policy, law or regulation.**

18b. For each law, policy, or regulation listed above, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

No.	Country(s)	Date enacted/ amended MM/DD/YYYY	Expected impact	Action that you performed to achieve this change
1				
2				
3				

(Not applicable to the project.)

19. Biodiversity-friendly Practices

Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

Please list any companies that have adopted biodiversity-friendly practices as a result of your project. While companies take various forms, for the purposes of CEPF, 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.

No.	Name of Company	Description of biodiversity-friendly practice adopted during the project	Country(s) where the practice has been adopted by the company
1			
2			
…			

(Not applicable to this project)

20. Networks & Partnerships

number of networks and/or partnerships created and/or strengthened

Report on any networks or partnerships between and among civil society groups and other sectors that you have created or strengthened as a result of your project. Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable. Examples of networks/partnerships include an alliance of fisherfolk to promote sustainable fisheries practices, a network of environmental journalists, a partnership between one or more NGOs with one or more private sector partners to improve biodiversity management on private lands, or a working group focusing on reptile conservation.

Do not list the partnerships you formed with others to implement this project unless these partnerships will continue after your project ends.

No.	Name of Network / Partnership	Year established	Did your project establish this Network/ Partnership? Y/N	Country(s) covered	Purpose
1					

2					
…					

(Not applicable to this project)

21. Sustainable Financing Mechanism

List any functioning sustainable financing mechanisms created or supported by your project. 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 service (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation. To be included, a mechanism must be delivering funds for conservation.

Not applicable to this project.

21a. Details about mechanism

No.	Name of Financing Mechanism	Purpose of the Mechanism*	Date of Establishment**	Description***	Countries
1					
2					
3					

**Please provide a succinct description of the mission of the mechanism.*
***Please indicate when the sustainable financing mechanism was officially created. If you do not know the exact date, provide the best estimate.*
****Description, such as trust fund, endowment, PES scheme, incentive scheme, etc.*

21b. Performance of the mechanism

For each Financing Mechanism listed previously, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

NO.	Project intervention (mark with x)	Has the mechanism disbursed funds to conservation projects?

	Created a mechanism	Supported an existing mechanism	Created and supported a new mechanism	
1				
2				
3				

(Not applicable to this project)

22. Red List Species

If the project included direct conservation interventions that benefited globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU), as per the IUCN Red List, add the species below.

Examples of interventions include: the preparation or implementation of a conservation action plan, captive breeding programs, species habitat protection, species monitoring, patrolling to halt wildlife trafficking, and removal of invasive species.

Genus	Species	Common Name (Eng)	Status (VU, EN, CR or Extinct in the Wild)	Intervention	Population Trend at Site (increasing, decreasing, stable or unknown)
Falco	*Falco vespertinus*	Red - footed Falcon	VU	Registration*	Decreasing
Streptopelia	*Streptopelia turtur*	European Turtle - dove	VU	Registration	Decreasing
Pelophylax	*Pelophylax shqipericus*	Albanian Water Frog	VU	Registration	Decreasing
Succisella	*Succisella petteri*	/	EN	Registration	Unknown

*Research on biodiversity conducted on the wet meadows of Skadar Lake is the most complete one ever made, so it can be considered the first one conducted in the area of wet meadows. Since the research was conducted for only one year, and it did not cover every season, it represents the

list of species registered in the area. Regarding everything mentioned, the intervention described as registration is the most appropriate in terms of scientific criteria.

Part V. Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final completion and impact reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our e-newsletter and other communications.

Provide the contact details of your organization (organization name and generic email address) so that interested parties can request further information about your project.

Organization Name: Center for Protection and Research of Birds
Generic email address: czip@czip.me