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: Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development
Project Title: Monitoring and Conservation of Endemic and Endangered Trout (Salmo peristericus) in National Park Pelister and Prespa region, North Macedonia
Grant Number: CEPF-110834
Date of Completion of this Report: 8/3/2023
CEPF Hotspot: Mediterranean Basin Hotspot
Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 2. Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity
Grant Amount: USD 18,539
Project Dates: 15 June 2020 – 30 June 2022

**This project was co-funded by PONT, and a separate narrative report to PONT was already submitted by the grantee.*

PART I: Overview

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

   Stakeholders on the project were: Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water economy, Ministry of environment and physical planning, according to the Law on Nature Protection, NP Pelister, Municipality of Resen, Local NGOs (Ruralni zeni, Eko Gerila Prespa, Zdruzeniena ovostari Blagoj Kotlarov,) and company Prespa Fish (group of fishermen from village Asamati), localč population from villages Brajcino, Ljubojno, Arvati, Krani and Leva reka.

2. Summarize the overall results of your project

Effective coordination between project partners and stakeholders contributed to the preparation of an Action Plan for the conservation of Prespa Trout based on the population status assessment. The project contributed to an improved program for long-term monitoring of the Prespa trout, accompanied by capacity building of the personnel of the Pelister National Park, the municipality of Resen, the competent Ministries, scientific research institutions, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. The project main objective was improvement of the status of the population of the endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*) through protection, monitoring and conservation in the National Park Pelister and Prespa region. Assessment of the Prespa trout was conducted on Brajcinska, Kranska and Leva Rivers, as part of Macro Prespa catchment basin area in North Macedonia. During the project period, the most important document that was developed was the Assessment study of the Prespa trout with spatial distribution, population density, sex structure and length structure. Also, trends in the population, threats and the impact of the small hydro power plants on the population of *Salmo peristericus* have been determined and the conservation status of the trout has been assessed in accordance with the criteria defined in the IUCN. The assessment of the distribution of the Prespa trout within the research confirms the restricted geographical range to Brajchinska River, Kranska River and Leva River, which is less than 5000 km2. The study shows that *Salmo peristericus* is facing certain threats that indicate fragmentation of the area severely affecting the habitat occupancy. The threat to the risk of extinction, spatial distribution, population size, decreasing tendency were the main criteria that requires that the population of the Prespa trout have to remain in the Endangered category.

The draft Action Plan for protection with proposal of measures and recommendations for monitoring and conservation of endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*) was prepared as part of this project.

As for the institutional strengthening for monitoring and conservation of endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*) trainings were organized for building the capacities of the personnel of the Pelister National Park, the municipality of Resen, the competent Ministries, scientific research institutions, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

3. 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**
Improvement of the status of the population of the endemic and endangered trout (Salmo peristericus) through protection, monitoring and conservation in the National Park Pelister and Prespa region.	The draft Action Plan for the conservation of Prespa Trout has been prepared based on the population status assessment, and will contribute to an improved program for long-term monitoring of Prespa Trout, and will also contribute to raising awareness among local, national and international stakeholders of the need from conserving aquatic species through adequate protection of aquatic ecosystems and promoting public participation and stakeholder involvement in environmental decision-making. In the interest of efficient

	coordination between project partners and stakeholders, a Memorandum of Cooperation has been prepared.

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

Impact Description	**Impact Summary**
Preparation of a conservation action plan for the endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*);	Conservation action plan was prepared and will be used for further implementation of conservation measures for the protection of *Salmo peristericus*.
Institutional strengthening for monitoring and conservation of endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*);	Capacity building of the personnel of the Pelister National Park, the municipality of Resen, the competent Ministries, scientific research institutions, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders was done through training activities for monitoring and conservation of Prespa trout.
Raise awareness for protection and conservation of endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*).	Information of the project activities were shared on the official website of BFSD, in order to emphasize the importance of the Prespa trout in PINP Pelister and Prespa region. Raising awareness was also done through media announcements.

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

n.a.

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	Assessment Study on the location, population size and status of endemic and endangered trout (Salmo peristericus) and Conservation Action Plan with measures and recommendations	Development of the Assessment study was a primary goal and to complete this activity, project coordinator had a field expedition together with representative from PINP (Public Institution National Park) Pelister in August 2020 for mapping of monitoring and assessment sites on Brajcinska, Kranska and Leva River. GPS coordinates were taken from all sites that were previously assessed in 2008 and additional sites were added according to the position of hydropower plants on Brajcinska and Kranska River and sites constructed for irrigation of agricultural land. Field visit was also conducted to assess accessibility, difficulty and water flow on

		assessment and monitoring sites on all rivers that are included in the research. GPS coordinates of mapped sites (22 sites) were shared with expert team (**Annex 1_Assessment and Monitoring sites**). Permits for scientific research were issued from Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water economy, according to the Law on fishery and aquaculture and from Ministry of environment and physical planning, according to the Law on Nature Protection. ToR was prepared and approved by the donors PONT and CEPF, to select expert for preparation of a Conservation Action Plan (CAP) for the endemic and endangered Prespa trout (*Salmo peristericus*). The ToR was published on the web sites of Balkan Foundation of Sustainable Development (BFSD) www.balkansfoundation.org, web site of Eko-svest www.ekosvest.com.mk and shared on FaceBook pages of Management of Natural Resources in Prespa Region, NP Pelister, Ekosvest and different FB users. E-mails to inform relevant national and international experts were sent together with the ToR to: Prof. Milica Ristovska, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Skopje, MK; Prof. Katerina Belicovska, Faculty of agricultural sciences and food, Skopje, MK; Prof. Vasil Kostov, Institute of Animal Science, Skopje, MK; Trajce Talevski, PhD, Hydrobiological Institute, Ohrid, MK; Zoran Spirkovska, MSc, Hydrobiological Institute, Ohrid, MK; Vesna Sidorovska PhD, Musseum of Natural Sciences, Skopje, MK; Prof. Dijana Blazekovikj, Faculty of biotechnology, Bitola, MK; Prof. Predgrag Siminovikj, Faculty of natural Sciences, Belgrade, RS; Prof. Ivaylo Sirakov, Trakia University, Stara Zagora, BG and Dimitar Koumanov, BG (**Annex 2_BFSD_ToR_Trout Expert**). Four complete applications were received before the deadline of the ToR announcement. Application from: Prof. Predgrag Siminovikj (expert team of 3 PhD and 1 MSc), Prof. Vasil Kostov (together with Prof. Milica Ristovska and 2 MSc), Trajce Talevski, PhD (2 PhD and 1 MSc) and Zoran Spirkovska, MSc (1 BSc). Selection of the expert/expert team was conducted according to the Evaluation procedure described in the ToR,

		by the project coordinator, a representative from BFSD and a representative from Ekosvest. Prof. Vasil Kostov and his team were selected with highest score on technical and financial criteria. Contract agreement was signed with the expert prior to field assessment of the Prespa trout. Before starting with field activities, the expert has delivered Methodology (sampling method and data collection) and a detailed action plan for the assessment of the spatial distribution, population size and conservation status of the endemic and endangered Prespa trout (*Salmo peristericus*) (**Annex 3_Methodology and Action Plan_Prespa trout).** The field assessment was carried out in November and beginning of December on Leva, Kranska and Brajcinska river. Presence of the Prespa trout was confirmed and 28 sites were sampled, which makes 6 additional sites compared to the previous assessments. On Leva river there were 4 sites, on Kranska river 7 sites and on Brajcinska river 17 assessment sites (one additional site will be surveyed in spring 2021). Collected fieldwork data for the Assessment study were: GPS coordinates and elevation (recorded starting point of assessment sites); population size with electrofishing and distribution of Prespa trout; morphometric characteristics were measured (fish population structure, length, weight); river parameters were measured (river depth, width, habitat); water quality analysis (pH, temperature, conductivity. salinity, oxygen concentration in water); analysis of risks and threats on each sample site; interviews with locals and photos / videos were made during the fieldwork. Field study was conducted during reproduction period of the Prespa trout and experts were able to evaluate gender structure of population, to distinguish male, female and juvenile fishes. This information is initial and very important, as previous information on gender structure is missing for the Prespa trout. The analysis showed that within the communities, fish with small length dimensions are sexually mature. The first sexually mature males are registered in the length class 8.1 - 9 cm, which is an extremely short length for the occurrence of sexual

		maturity. Results from the field activities are presented in the Assessment study (**Annex 4_Assessment Study Prespa Trout**), that was reviewed by donors, project coordinator and stakeholders. Assessment of population of Prespa trout on Brajcinska river in NP Pelister, shows population with reduced length and were found in reproductive stage. Trout population in Leva river was approximately the same as previous studies, with small population size. Presence of the Prespa trout in Kranska river was confirmed, excluding sampling site in village Arvati (threats related to the untreated-waste water from households). On Brajchinska river and tributaries presence of the Prespa trout was also confirmed on all sites, several additional sites were covered (upstream hydropower, between hydropower plants and downstream the hydropower, before Brajcino, between Brajcino and Ljubojno; after Ljubojno village). Experts have evaluated population dynamics and biology of *Salmo peristercius* from Brajcinska, Kranska and Leva river basins and the Assessment study contains: spatial distribution, population density, sex structure of the population, length structure of the population, time and length of first sexual maturation, length weight ratio and coefficient of condition of fish. The trends in the population, threats and the impact of the small hydro power plants on the population of *Salmo peristericus* have been determined and the conservation status of the trout has been assessed in accordance with the criteria defined in the IUCN. The calculated relative density of the population of *Salmo peristericus* in Brajcinska River was 458 fish/ha. The lowest relative density was found on the sampling point (SP) B11 (125 fish/ha), and the highest on the profile B13 (1455 fish/ha). On three profiles (B1, B9 and B11) the population density is below 200 fish/ha. The calculated relative density of the trout population in Kranska River was 1016 fish/ha. The lowest relative density was found on the SP K1 (707 fish/ha), and the highest on the SP K2 (1792 fish/ha). The total relative density of the trout population in the Leva River is extremely small and it is 101 fish/ha. The densities of all examined sampling points are below 200 fish/ha. However,

		observed densities lower than 200 fish/ha are quite low, and viability of those populations remains an issue. Early sexual maturation prevents reaching larger dimensions, and thus in the population present individuals will have difficulties to cope with the migration route (natural obstacles through the riverbeds due to the presence of larger rocks along rivers, but also the presence of hydropower plants and cascade on Brajcinska river). This creates naturally isolated populations within the same river. In such isolated populations, in order to maintain the populations, greater recruitment of young individuals is necessary. According to the results, the SHPP water intakes are an additional barrier for fish migration. In addition, the absence of longitudinal connectivity of watercourse (downstream and upstream), also negatively affects the health and density of trout populations as well as fragmentation and isolation of populations to size and condition of trout. The existence of fish passages along with water intakes is not enough passable for trout migration to reach the upper parts of the river. It could be concluded that SHPPs are serious threats and pressures for the Prespa trout due to their water intakes, as eventual impassable barriers for fish migration considering condition, preventing access to food availability, fragmentation and isolation of habitats, disabling trout to migrate towards spawning localities as well as further growth and development due to limited life area-water. The Prespa trout and its populations in the three rivers are separated from the lake. In the past the migration from the rivers into the Prespa Lake and opposite was possible. The assessment of the distribution of the Prespa trout within the research confirms the restricted geographical range to Brajchinska River, Kranska River and Leva River, which is less than 5000 km^2. All three watersheds are not connected at the upper parts. The only possible connection is the Prespa Lake itself. However, the study shows that *Salmo peristericus* is facing certain threats (listed in detail within this document) that indicate fragmentation of the area severely affecting the habitat occupancy.

		The threat to the risk of extinction, spatial distribution, population size, decreasing tendency are the main criteria that requires that the population of the Prespa trout have to remain in the Globally **Endangered** category. Completed Assessment Study with results on current status of endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*) is an initial starting point to develop relevant Conservation Action Plan (CAP). Structured questionnaires were developed to conducting survey with stakeholders (**Annex 5_Quiestionaire Prespa trout**). Also, phone and e-mail communication was conducted with stakeholders to assess their opinion, concerns, responsibilities, competences and recommendations for the proposed project activities. The draft Action Plan for protection with proposal of measures and recommendations for monitoring and conservation of endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*) was prepared by the experts: Prof. Dr. Vasil Kostov, Irina Manevska, M.Sc and Juliana Arsovska, M.Sc. The Action Plan includes the Assessment and Monitoring Protocol and Program for ex-situ conservation as well as the goals, activities, indicators, and proposal for responsible institutions for implementation and monitoring. The draft Action Plan for the conservation of Prespa Trout has been prepared based on the population status assessment, and will contribute to an improved program for long-term monitoring of Prespa Trout, and will also contribute to raising awareness among local, national and international stakeholders of the need from conserving aquatic species through adequate protection of aquatic ecosystems and promoting public participation and stakeholder involvement in environmental decision-making. In the interest of efficient coordination between project partners and stakeholders, a Memorandum of Cooperation has been prepared (**Annex 6_ Draft Action Plan for the protection of the Prespa Trout**). The draft Action Plan for protection with proposal of measures and recommendations for monitoring and conservation of endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*) was sent

		to the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning with official request for their opinion. The request was in the direction of obtaining an opinion from the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning on the prepared Proposed Action Plan for the protection of the Prespa Trout.
2.1	Trained personnel of National Park Pelister (rangers, protected area authorities, technical staff) and other Stakeholders	Field training of stakeholders for monitoring and conservation of Prespa trout was held in village of Brajcini (Brajcinska Reka) on 21-22 May, 2021. The field training was aimed at improving knowledge about Prespa trout by demonstrating the methodology for ichthyological research on Brajčinska and Kranska Reka. The main objective of the field training was to improve the work and communication between stakeholders and their role in monitoring and conservation of the endemic and endangered trout (Salmo peristericus). The first day of the training started with the welcome speeches given by PONT (Executive Director Miriam de Koning and Grant Coordinator Oliver Avramovski), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWE) – (Minister Arianit Hoxha), Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MOEPP), NP Pelister (Director Osman Shukriu), Municipality of Resen (Mayor Zivko Gosharevski) and BFSD Project Coordinator (Silvana Manasievska Simic). The training agenda followed with presentations on Biology of the Prespa trout (Salmo peristericus), Conservation status of Prespa trout (Salmo peristericus), Ichthyological research - Methodology of scientific research on Prespa trout (Salmo peristericus) and Threats to the Prespa trout population and monitoring plan presented by the Project Expert team: Prof. Dr. Vasil Kostov, Prof. Dr. Milica Ristovska, Irina Manevska, M.Sc and Juliana Arsovska, M.Sc. The agenda of the first day field training ended with the Demonstration of the Brajčinska Reka methodology (Electrofishing) presented by the Project Expert Team and followed by participants discussion. The second day of the field training started with the introduction of project and project activities presented by Silvana
2.2	Enhanced long term monitoring program implemented by NP Pelister and other Stakeholders	

		Manasievska Simic – Project Coordinator. It followed with presentations of Biology of the Prespa trout (*Salmo peristericus*), Conservation status of Prespa trout (*Salmo peristericus*), Ichthyological research - Methodology of scientific research on Prespa trout (*Salmo peristericus*) and Threats to the Prespa trout population and monitoring plan presented by the Project Expert team: Prof. Dr. Vasil Kostov, Prof. Dr. Milica Ristovska, Irina Manevska, M.Sc and Juliana Arsovska, M.Sc. Afterwards, the Project Expert team gave Demonstration of the methodology of the Kranska river (Electrofishing). The second day of the field training ended with participants discussion (**Annex 7_Field Training Invitation & Agenda**). Development of training program for monitoring and conservation of the Prespa trout and capacity building of selected Stakeholders has started with development of the Agenda and Power Point Presentations. Theoretical and practical training program was planned for autumn 2020, but it was postponed for spring 2021, due to delay of scientific permits and Covid 19 pandemic. The training for Monitoring and Conservation of Endemic and Endangered Trout (*Salmo peristericus*) in National Park Pelister and Prespa region was organized on June 24, 2021 through the Microsoft Teams platform. The training aimed at improving knowledge about Prespa trout, the methodology for ichthyological research and the presentation of the results obtained from the research within the project. The training was opened with the introductory address speeches regarding monitoring and conservation of natural resources in protected areas by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MEPSP) – Deputy Minister Hristina Odzaklieska and the NP Pelister – Director Osman Shukriu. The training agenda followed with the introduction to the project and presentation of the project activities by Prof. Dr. Silvana Manasievska Simic - Project Coordinator. Prof. Dr. Vasil Kostov and Juliana Arsovska, M.Sc had a presentation on the Biology and conservation status of the Prespa trout (Salmo peristericus). Prof. Dr. Vasil Kostov and Irina Manevska, M.Sc had a presentation on the Ichthyological research

		- Methodology of scientific research on the Prespa trout (Salmo peristericus), and the next presentation was on the Results of ichthyological research presented by Prof. Dr. Vasil Kostov and Juliana Arsovska, M.Sc. The last presentation was on the Threats to the Prespa trout population presented by Irina Manevska, M.Sc and Prof. Dr. Vasil Kostov. The training ended with the discussion including all participants and wrap up of the day (**Annex 8_Training Invitation & Agenda**). Field training of stakeholders with transfer of experience and knowledge for monitoring and conservation of endemic and endangered trout (Salmo peristericus) was organized on November 6, 2021 in the village of Brajcino and two locations on Brajcinska river. The objective of the field training was building the capacities of the personnel of the Pelister National Park, the municipality of Resen, the competent Ministries, scientific research institutions, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. The field training aimed at demonstrating the methodology for monitoring Prespa trout on Brajčinska Reka and improving the work and communication between stakeholders and their role in monitoring and conservation of the endemic and endangered trout (Salmo peristericus). It was specifically tailored for persons responsible for biodiversity protection in the Prespa region and involved in monitoring and conservation of species and habitats. The field training was opened by welcome speeches from Salwa Elhalawani, Small Grant Manager and Marijana Demajo, Small Grant Coordinator-Balkans from Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), followed by introduction to the project and presentation of the project activities by Prof. Dr. Silvana Manasievska Simic - Project Coordinator. Then the field training started for the representatives of stakeholders regarding the implementation of the methodology for monitoring the Prespa trout on the Brajčinska river on two different locations. The field training ended with the demonstration of the methodology for ichthyological research on Brajčinska river (Electrofishing) (**Annex**

		9_Field Training Information, Invitation & Agenda).
3.1	Implemented campaign of raising awareness and promotion of biodiversity values with the focus on fish species	Information of the project activities were shared on the official website of BFSD, in order to emphasize the importance of the Prespa trout in PINP Pelister and Prespa region. Additionally, other news and research results, and Assessment study were shared on the webpage. Sharing the ongoing, completed and planned activities will raise public awareness of the project. Link to the website: https://balkansfoundation.org/. Logo and Links of donors CEPF (BirdLife International, DOPSS and BPSSS) and PONT were incorporated in BFSD website. Media announcement was developed with journalist from sdk.mk and interview with project coordinator Silvana Manasievska Simikj from BFSD and Ana Colovic Lesoska from Ekosvest was published on sdk web site on 27.06.2020. Source: Sakam da kazam www.sdk.mk Title: ПРЕСПАНСКАТА ПАСТРМКА ЌЕ СЕ ЗАШТИТУВА СО ГРАНТ ОД СТРАНСТВО Link of the media announcement: https://sdk.mk/index.php/magazin/endemskata-prespanska-pastrmka-ke-se-zashtituva-so-poseben-aktsiski-plan/#.Xu8NVMcctEQ.facebook Social media posts were shared on project activities. To ensure effective coordination with Project Partners/Stakeholders, we have sent invitation letters to the major stakeholders to nominate members of the PSC. Priority was given to the development of Assessment study and evaluation of status of the Prespa trout. Meetings are planned with Stakeholders to discuss the results and to receive feedback on the Study. Additionally, communication and cooperation with the stakeholders will be to provide recommendations, comments and suggestions in correlation with preparation of the CAP. The final project meeting was organized on June 16 2022 at the Hotel Lake View in Resen. The meeting was opened by the NP Pelister–

		Director Osman Shukriu, Municipality of Resen – Mayor Jovan Tozievski, Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE), and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MOEPP), and Silvana Manasievska - Project coordinator. The results of the project activities were presented by Silvana Manasievska - Project coordinator and the results of the Assessment Study of Prespa Trout were presented by Expert team: Prof. Vasil Kostov, PhD, Irina Manevska MSc, and Julijana Arsovska MSc. The Conservation Action Plan (CAP) for Prespa was presented together with Silvana Manasievska - Project coordinator and the Expert team: Prof. Vasil Kostov, PhD, Irina Manevska MSc, and Julijana Arsovska MSc. The meeting ended with discussion with the stakeholders (**Annex 10_final Meeting Invitation & Agenda**).
4.1	Effective Coordination with Project Partners/Stakeholders)	Development of Project Stakeholders Council (PSC) in order to enhance collaboration, commitment and unity among Stakeholders was an important activity. PSC was planned to improve conservation of Prespa trout as an important endemic and endangered species in National Park Pelister and Prespa region. Letter for nomination was send to different Stakeholders, with aim of nominating members for the Project Stakeholders Council (PSC). • The Letter for nomination was delivered to Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water economy on 01.10.2020 archive number 33-7204/1. The Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water economy send a nomination of member for PSC from the Department of Fishery and Aquaculture, Mr. Igor Bojadzijev was nominated. • The Letter for nomination was delivered to Ministry of environment and physical planning on 01.10.2020 archive number 11-4052/1. Project coordinator conducted meeting with Sector of water and Sector of nature to inform for project activities and delivered letter for
4.2	Set up of the project team	

		nomination. The Ministry of environment and physical planning send a nomination of member for PSC from the Sector of nature. Mr. Isuf Fetai was nominated. • The Letter for nomination was delivered to NP Pelister for nomination of a representative of the project stakeholder council. Violeta Satirovska was nominated for the PSC and the ranger Jonche Gagovski of the NP Pelister was proposed as a technical support in field activities. Project coordinator had a several telephone conversations with previous and recently appointed Director of PINP Pelister to discuss project activities. • The Letter for nomination was delivered to Municipality of Resen. Project coordinator had a telephone conversation with Mayor of Municipality Resen for arranging a meeting to discuss the project activities. Nomination was not received from Municipality of Resen during reporting period. • The Letter for nomination was delivered to Public Enterprise National Forests, the nomination is pending. • HPP personnel was contacted during field research. Additional meetings were planned to assess the willingness and commitment by the HPP officials to protect the environment and their inclusion in the process of conservation of the Prespa trout. • Local NGOs (Ruralni zeni, Eko Gerila Prespa, Zdruzeniena ovostari Blagoj Kotlarov,) and company Prespa Fish (group of fishermen from village Asamati) were contacted to evaluate their interest in participating in workshops, trainings and activities regarding questionnaires. Also, local population in proximity of targeted sites was contacted during field activities

		(villages Brajcino, Ljubojno, Arvati, Krani and Leva reka). Shared received information were valuable for development of Assessment study and project implementation. • PSC Meetings in the future should focus on increasing communication with the stakeholders, to share information and results of Assessment of the Prespa trout, to assess the role of each stakeholder according national legislation, internal rulebooks and previous activities; and to communicate future plans and opportunities connected with project objectives. Coordination of the activities with the Stakeholders in development of Conservation Action Plan (CAP). Assessment study was shared with MOEPP, MAFWE, PINP Pelister and Municipality of Resen to assess the results of the study and to provide opinions and recommendations. We have received respond from Municipality of Resen within specified deadline. Their respond was shared with the expert team for further analysis in development of the CAP. The participation of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy were essential to improve the operation and communication between stakeholders and their role in monitoring and conservation of the endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*) so the draft Action Plan for protection with proposal of measures and recommendations for monitoring and conservation of endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*) was sent to the both Ministries in February 2022, with official request for their opinion (**Annex 11_Official Request MOEPP_Official Request MAFWE)**.

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

1. Assessment and Monitoring sites_Prespa trout
2. Methodology and Action Plan_Prespa trout
3. Assessment Study Prespa Trout
4. Quiestionaire Prespa trout
5. Draft Action Plan for the protection of the Prespa Trout

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.

n.a.

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.

Trainings of personnel of National Park Pelister and prepared Conservation Action Plan are expected to contribute towards further conservation of the Prespa trout.

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.

A Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions was produced at the start of the project, and used during implementation. No complaints were received during the project implementation.

Additional Funding

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

a. Total additional funding (US$) 20,720

b. Type of funding

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

Donor	Type of Funding	Amount
PONT	Co funding	19,665 EUR = USD 20,720

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

Issuing permits for scientific research takes longer than expected and it influenced the start of field research for the assessment of the Prespa trout. In relation to the risks and the difficulties in the implementation of the project activities, mostly occurred due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we can mention that some project activities that were planned to take place during autumn 2020, were postponed for spring and summer 2021. Organizing activities in groups as trainings, meetings and interview were rescheduled due to the Covid 19 situation in the country. As due to the pandemic, and the restriction measures in 2020 and 2021, several activities were taken to mitigate the situation: organization of the online meetings with stakeholders and members of the PSC on electronic platforms; interviews completed by phone calls; dissemination of the questionaries by electronic mail or online survey shared with Stakeholders; meetings with physical presence were conducted following Covid 19 protocols; theoretical training (workshop) was conducted on electronic platform. In order to ensure comprehensive participation of all stakeholders, we shared research results to initiate meetings and phone calls in order to increase the willingness of the Stakeholders to cooperate and contribute in preparation of CAP. Additionally, from administrative point, Prespa region has insufficient number of accommodation facilities that work during entire year and most of them lack capacities for larger groups.

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

2.4 Number of Freshwater KBAs in priority CMZ with improved information on biodiversity, shared with stakeholders	1	MKD11 Pelister During the project period, the most important document that was developed was the Assessment study of the Prespa trout with spatial distribution, population density, sex structure and length structure. The draft Action Plan for protection with proposal of measures and recommendations for monitoring and conservation of endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*) was prepared as part of this project. Documents were shared with: NP Pelister, Municipality of Resen, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE), Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MOEPP).

Contribution to Global Indicators

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

13. Benefits to Individuals

13a. 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

13b. 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

**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***

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 *

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

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 landowners	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. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services	# of men and boys benefitting	# of women and girls benefitting

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

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 sectoral or sub-national level. “Laws and regulations” pertain to official rules or orders, prescribed by 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																				

*** 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				

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			
…			

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					
…					

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.

21a. Details about the mechanism

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

**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 a 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				

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: 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)
Salmo	Salmo peristericus	Prespa trout	EN	Prepared Conservation Action Plan.	Stable according to the IUCN RedList

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: Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development
Generic email address:vandonovski@gmail.com; bfsd@greenmail.net