

## **Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions**

**Date**

**06/06/2019**

**CEPF Grant**

**Association for sustainable development MILIEUKONTAKT Macedonia**

***Enhancing Dojran Lake Unique Biodiversity through Engagement of all Stakeholders  
and Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Approaches***

**Dojran Lake, Municipality of Dojran, Republic of North Macedonia**

## **Grant Summary**

1. Grantee organization  
**Association for sustainable development MILIEUKONTAKT Macedonia**
2. Grant title  
**Enhancing Dojran Lake Unique Biodiversity through Engagement of all Stakeholders and Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Approaches**
3. Grant number  
**109162**
4. Grant amount (US dollars)  
**150,000**
5. Proposed dates of grant  
**01/07/2019-30/06/2021**
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken  
**Republic of North Macedonia, Municipality of Dojran, Dojran Lake**
7. Date of preparation of this document  
**06/06/2019**

**The Process Framework will describe the project and how restrictions of access to natural resources and measures to assist affected communities. Affected communities should have the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the Process Framework. Typically, the Applicant will prepare a draft Framework that will then be shared and discussed with local communities and other relevant stakeholders. Based on the consultations, a final Framework will be prepared. CEPF may provide guidance on development of the Framework and will review and approve the final Framework prior to approving the final project proposal application. The Process Framework should include the following elements:**

### **A. Project background**

The aim of the project is to improve the overall ecological status of the protected Dojran Lake (Monument of Nature, according to North Macedonian Law), which has suffered an ecological catastrophe in the late 1980s due to the excessive drainage of water. The consequences from this catastrophe are still detectable mainly via the worsened quality of the water, the highly eutrophic state of the lake, frequent cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms and the high abundance of invasive fish. All these factors, together with the enhanced loss of habitats and their fragmentation, pose big threat to the biodiversity of Dojran Lake. Dojran Lake represents a Freshwater Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), and the identified threats pose additional existential risk to the following trigger species: 1) *Alburnus macedonicus* (Critical status – CR), 2) *Pelecanus crispus* (Vulnerable status – VU), 3) *Vormela peregusna* (VU), *Spermophilus citellus* (VU), *Alburnus sp. nov. 'Volvi'* (Nearly Threatened - NT) and *Microcarbo pygmaeus* (Least Concern status – LC).

The project aim will be achieved through implementation of conservation activities that will directly improve the lake ecosystem and through strengthening of the governance of the catchment zone of the Monument of Nature Dojran Lake. The project has been conceptualized and developed based on findings and results of previous projects, funded by CEPF and other donors.

The staff at the designated authority for protection and management of Dojran Lake will receive training for policy planning, development and implementation of management plans, monitoring programs and best IRBM practices. As part of the project also the first management plan with an action plan and a monitoring program will be developed.

The project also encompasses direct conservation actions, such as:

- 1) Biomanipulation via selective removal of planktivorous and invasive fish (with voluntary participation by local fisherman), that should improve the water quality, decrease the toxic cyanobacterial blooms and remove invasive fish
- 2) Development of an operational plan for construction of artificial wetlands that should improve the water quality by mitigating the effects of runoff pollutants and nutrients from agriculture
- 3) Training of farmers on sustainable agricultural practices, and
- 4) Rehabilitation of the part of the lakeshore using biotechnical stabilization, which in addition will provide resilience to floods and climate crises-related incidents.

Altogether, the project will improve the ecological status of Dojran Lake and provide long-term strengthened governance of the protected area.

## **B. Participatory implementation**

MKM has a long history of accomplished projects that have benefited poor and marginalized communities, through implementation of activities that improve both people's well-being and their nature and biodiversity, from which they draw their resources. MKM principles are founded on respect and protection of the human rights and needs, enhancement of social and gender equality and support of the governing system. The same rigorous principles will be applied during this project, in that with the projected activities we will strive to improve the socio-economic situation of the local community by taking conservation actions to protect the biodiversity and improve the lake's ecological status. This in turn, should in the long run provide sustainable and stable access to natural resources for the local community. At MKM, we believe that local communities should not be disadvantaged on behalf of biodiversity conservation; but rather contrary, that local communities should gain increased benefits and improve their socio-economic status from such conservation activities.

We will adhere to our principles throughout the complete project and in the co-operation with all project partners and stakeholders i.e. the Municipality of Dojran, the business sector, the local community and CSOs.

The procedure for finalization of the Process Framework, based on the draft version developed by the project team, will include consultations with all major stakeholders i.e. the municipality of Dojran, CEPF and the relevant affected local communities. The procedure will be completed with approval from all affected parties.

The project will be implemented with continuing participation from the local community, the local municipality, landowners, the lake concessionaire, fishermen, farmers, scientific experts from the

Valorization Study and the management authority of the Greek side of the lake. To assure smooth participatory implementation, the following ground rules for participatory engagement will be followed:

- Mutual respect between all participants
- Clear definition of roles and responsibilities
- Adherence to transparency, accountability, law-abiding, fairness and inclusivity
- Adherence to democratic principles
- Empowerment of all participants for equal and meaningful participation, through capacity building on the subject matter
- Provide means for equal and meaningful participation

Participation in the project activities will be encouraged and enabled through the following actions:

- The project kick-off meeting, which will be used as point to spark the interest in participation
- Regular meetings with the key stakeholders
- Educational trainings for the project key beneficiaries, in order to build their capacities and provide knowledge on the subject matter
- Close involvement of the stakeholders, during implementation of project activities
- Organization of public hearings on the main project deliverables to enable participation and a possibility to influence the decision-making process by the participating members and the wider community.

The project will also enable closer contact between the local fisherman and farmers with the Managing authority – Municipality of Dojran, which should facilitate future cooperation between these stakeholders and provide means for the fisherman and farmers to influence the decision making processes regarding management of the lake and access to natural resources.

The project will raise an initiative for transboundary collaboration in the management of Dojran Lake between the official responsible authorities from Greece and North Macedonia.

### **C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons**

The project focuses on an area that is under protection by North Macedonia national laws due to its natural values. The law stipulates that activities that negatively impact the ecosystem values of Dojran Lake are prohibited; however, currently there is a lack of full enforcement of the law. The project will largely affect those individuals/private entities that currently engage in illegal activities that undermine the natural status and ecology of the lake, which are anyhow forbidden by the national law. The project aims to better control and manage this protected lake, while providing alternatives to those that in some way depend for their living on the natural resources the lake provides.

Affected persons include: the local government, community members and businesses involved in the

project (e.g. fishermen, farmers, future CSOs) and community members not involved in the project.

The development of the management plan and the improvement of enforcement expected as result of the project might result in restricting some activities for some stakeholders:

- a. Persons running private business detrimental to the environment (and already illegal), for instance on waste management, or local enterprises illegally discharging polluted water in the lake. Their business might be impacted by enforcement of regulation. These people won't be eligible to mitigation action
- b. People running tourism-related businesses. 70 percent of inhabitants of Dojran lake area have at least some economic activities pertaining to tourism. These people are expected to be affected positively by the project
- c. Fishermen. Some fishing practices might have to be adjusted to ensure environmental sustainability. Local fishermen will be associated to discussions, will benefit from training and the one who are the most affected (potentially) by new regulations will be prioritized for participating in the biomanipulation pilot project (intensive fishing of invasive fishes). Long-term benefits are expected for local fishermen.
- d. Farmers. It is possible that some agricultural practices detrimental to the environment of the lake might be better regulated, in particular as regards water use and use of some pesticides. Farmers are expected to benefit from local tourism and maintained ecosystem services in the long run. Farmers will be associated to the discussion, and training will be offered to improve agricultural practices.

#### **D. Measures to assist the affected persons**

The project objective is to provide long-term stable and sustainable access to natural resources to the local community, by developing a Management Plan with an Action Plan for Dojran Lake and deploying a conservation biomanipulation action. The current bad ecological situation of Dojran Lake and the way its resources are used is unsustainable and will likely result in a near-future complete collapse of these natural resources, which will in turn have detrimental repercussions on the socio-economic situation and the well-being of the local community.

Preparation of the management plan for this protected area might result in definition of new regulations or enforcement of existing ones, which might require from fisherman, farmers or other stakeholders to change their practices of usage of the natural resources. Although the proposed regulations/measures will provide long-term social and economic benefits to the affected people, to minimize the short-term impact and enable smooth transition all affected people will have the opportunity to participate and get involved in the process of the development and implementation of the proposed activities. In addition, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be conducted, to safeguard the well-being of the local community. Persons affected by the biomanipulation activity are those fishermen

that will voluntarily participate in the project. The affected persons as well as the wider public will have the opportunity to raise their concerns about the project activities during the public hearings, which will be organized after the completion of the SEA and EIA. All concerns will be duly noted, discussed and taken into consideration in the finalization of the proposed project activities.

Communities will be trained in best farming and fishing practices, so that all individuals have the opportunity to make better livelihoods, without undertaking illegal activities.

#### **E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism**

The project team and the main partner Dojran Municipality will establish a grievance mechanism in order to provide means to address complaints and/or conflict situations by any stakeholder or a person affected by the project. The grievance mechanism will be publically available and will be communicated with all project participants as well as the local community, through direct communication, posters, leaflets etc. in Macedonian and English. Any person or a group of people has the right to raise an official or unofficial complaint, and the project coordinator has the obligation to respond within 15 days.

The project coordinator will be the first contact person for receiving the grievances. His/her details (name, email and postal address) along with the contact information of the grantee organization, the CEPF Regional Implementation Team, the Executive Director and the World Bank local office will be made available to the public and the project stakeholders using the abovementioned means. The project coordinator should attempt to resolve the potential issues with the help from the project team, the partner Municipality of Dojran and if necessary with the CEPF Regional Implementation Team. The project coordinator has the obligation to communicate all grievances with the CEPF Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. In a case of failed resolve, the issue must be passed along to the CEPF and the World Bank. As suggested, the following text will be included in the grievance mechanism: “We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at [cepfexecutive@conservation.org](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org) or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.”

#### **F. Implementation Arrangements**

The project has been conceptualized in partnership with the managing authority of Dojran Lake and it builds on the findings of previous projects that this partner has been involved in. This kind of approach, starting from the onset of the project substantially minimizes the likelihood of conflicts or grievances.

The project goals, activities, scope and expected results, as well as the safeguard mechanisms, will be presented and discussed with all affected persons during the project kick-off meeting. This meeting will be used to spark the interest and attention of additional stakeholders, such as fishermen, farmers and the business sector. Regular meetings will be organized to update the stakeholders about the progress of the implementation. Educational trainings are planned as part of many of the project activities, which should

furthermore promote efficient and meaningful participation. The wider public will be informed about the objectives of the project through posters, leaflets, and public hearings that will be frequently organized during the entire duration of the project. The public hearings and debates on the outcome of the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will serve as additional safeguard mechanisms and opportunities to hear the public opinion on the project and raise concerns. Overall, this kind of participative approach decreases the likelihoods for complaints and conflict situations during the entire duration of the project.