

Small Grants – Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization Legal Name: NGO Montenegrin Ecologists Society

Project Title: Inclusion of the local community in protecting and improving the habitat of the endangered Skadar frog (*Pelophylax shqipericus*) in the Bojana Delta, Montenegro

Grant Number: CEPF-109788

Date of Completion of this Report: 11.12.2021

CEPF Hotspot: Mediterranean Basin Hotspot

Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 1. Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the preservation of biodiversity in coastal areas

Grant Amount: 40 000 USD

Total Project Expenditure: 39,936.13 USD

Project Dates: 1 March 2019 – 31 August 2021

PART I: Overview

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

Local expert NGO MOGUL for stakeholder mapping- Provided assistance for communication with local decision makers. They also provided assistance in organizing the event „Frog Day” for 2 years 2019 and 2021. During the organization of these two events, they gave recommendations for the selection of locations, contributed to communication with schools and obtaining a final agreement on the participation of individual schools in these events. They also gave recommendations for the selection of transport of children and other participants for the needs of these events. They provided a key contribution to the project by contacting with the local community.

Expert for stakeholder participation and decision making, Organisation EnvPRO mainly participated in the design of the study, in the proposal of the methodology of developing the study.

They provided the support in connecting with the target groups, as well as gave suggestions and inputs on organizing and leading meetings with institutions.

Laboratory analyses, Ghent University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Pathology, bacteriology and poultry diseases, prof. dr. Frank Pasmans – Conducted laboratory analysis of the fungal disease chytridiomycosis from the frogs that were collected and sampled in Ulcinj by amphibian experts. These results are presented in the report for chytridiomycosis.

2. Summarize the overall results of your project

The project “Inclusion of the local community in protecting and improving the habitat of the endangered Skadar frog (*Pelophylax shqipericus*) in the Bojana Delta” is a project that dealt in detail with the research of an endemic, relatively little known and researched species of Skadar frog, which belongs to the group of green frogs. The project identified the most valuable habitats and populations in KBA Delta Bojana River.

Through the project the communication was established with representatives of local communities and students who recognized this as an important life topic. About 15 students and interested citizens have been trained to recognize and monitor the habitats and condition of Skadar Frog.

During the project, some researches were done, such as the state of populations, pressures, and stresses of habitats of this species. In addition, a cross-section about the problems of collection and export of green frogs from Montenegro and ex-Yugoslavia was made and the current situation on the ground regarding this problem was presented in the study which is published through this project.

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
To increase the level of environmental and operational knowledge that stakeholders can apply to the sustainable use of wetland habitats.	<p>The project has contributed to this long-term goal in several ways.</p> <p>Through various activities on the project, experts, students, and locals got a chance to get involved and learn more about wetland habitats, a key species - the Skadar Frog.</p> <p>The production of a bilingual study on this species and its habitats, as well as its distribution to stakeholders, is one of the top long-term tools for education and awareness-raising.</p> <p>Thanks to field project activities, biology students and students of similar sciences were able to see and understand what population monitoring looks like, determining populations, how fragmentation affects the reduction of population and habitats. Some participated in collecting data for analysis fungal disease with experts.</p>

	<p>Thanks to them, we monitored many transects in a short time and at the same time obtained information about the number of detected individuals. Therefore, the sample was much larger and the analysis better due to the larger number of findings.</p> <p>Two years of work with students on the project in the form of fieldwork participation has contributed to the fact that now MES has permanent volunteers who increasingly want to get involved in the activities of our organization. This only confirmed that students get better connected with a topic only when they go out on the field and when they start to put their knowledge into practice.</p> <p>Working with locals through field data collection, survey research, holding events "The Frog Day" for the promotion and education of wetlands has interested the local population and schools that are now more aware of the natural values of their environment. These activities contributed firstly to the education and recognition of the importance of this species at the local level, as well as to raise the visibility of the organization on this topic. Good communication has been established with many individual locals and stakeholders, so a good basis for cooperation on the following projects has been set.</p> <p>The organization of the events "The Frog day" in 2019 and 2021, which are part of the global movement, enriched knowledge on this topic in the first place to the students of local schools that participated. Through the lecture, participation in various educational games and quizzes, participants learned all the basic concepts of freshwater habitats, their importance and their diverse inhabitants.</p>
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b. Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
1. Build capacity of the civil sector, professional actors and individuals within the local community to monitor the population status and threatening factors of the Skadar frog (=Albanian	The first short-term impact was fully met through training of 10 young students and couple of interested locals to identify, monitor habitat, threatening factors and population status of Skadar Frog in KBA Delta Bojana. This was achieved by

water frog) - one of the key species KBA Delta Bojana and its habitats.	monthly field trips to habitats of this species during both seasons of the project.
2.To increase the level of knowledge and awareness in local community and amongst the general public, about the importance and benefits of preserving the wetlands and unique biodiversity in their local environment.	This short-term impact has been achieved completely in several ways. First, by organizing the event "The Frog day". The story about the Skadar Frog was additionally presented on over 3 national televisions and was talked about in 4 national portals, as well as through periodic posts on the social networks of our organization. In addition, Study about species ecology, distribution, risk factors, and their habitats was produced as part of the project. The Study is widely distributed and available in PDF or in print form. The Study is already available at website: https://skadarskazaba.netlify.com/ and It will be available on the official website of Montenegrin Ecologist Society once the website is ready for use. This goal is further enhanced by the translation of the publication into English. This study, along with educational brochures, was distributed in project areas, predominantly in schools and with other stakeholders.
3.To incorporate scientific findings, results and recommendations of the project (Study) in the local and national planning and management documents for the coastal area of Montenegro and wider complementary initiatives.	The scientific study was sent to several relevant addresses. It was sent to the Environmental Protection Agency as the leading nature protection organization, and it was suggested that the results of the research should be included in the reports on the state of the environment. The study was submitted to the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism. The ministry was advised to include this data in the national biodiversity strategy and the spatial plan of Montenegro.

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

As for 2019, there were a couple of unexpected challenges, which caused a shift in the execution of certain activities. In fact, too many activities were planned for spring - early summer 2019. We wanted to focus more on "Frog Day" organization and field research, so we rescheduled some activities for the autumn, which consequently delayed the activities: Continuation of cooperation with decision-makers to incorporate the Study into the given documents and planning the next steps in integrating results and recommendations from the Study into complementary initiatives for the protection of coastal area., and the Project completion date is delayed. Also, the work on the Study took us more time than planned, because we wanted to work more on some of the topics we found important during the Project such as: reviewing legislation related to green frogs

protection their collection and export, surveying caterers regarding the demand and supply of frogs as food item and their knowledge on collecting of green frogs in KBA Delta Bojana.

In terms of project extension (2020-2021) the biggest challenge was definitely the Covid-19 pandemic. It was very challenging to organize any public event or gathering, due to health measures that have been changed every 15 days. This has caused difficulties in some activities to be completed successfully and due to this, some activities were minimally modified. Due to the pandemic and lockdown measures that were active at the time, it used to be difficult to organize students for monitoring of green frogs, as only employed citizens were allowed to pass between different municipalities. We solved this by adjusting field days and sometimes issuing volunteer permits to students. The greatest impact of the pandemic was on the organization of "The Frog Day", which was initially intended to be organized for 60 students. We solved this problem by halving the number of students and holding the event outside respecting COVID measures. Other activities were completed without any special risks and challenges.

A positive and unexpected result was in the field of legal regulations. Thanks to the data collected through this project, an initiative has been launched to amend some legal regulations concerning the lists of protected species in Montenegro in general and the lists concerning the rules of species hunting. The institutions have shown their will and started the process of updating these documents, which are quite outdated and full of irregularities.

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	The project presented at the Faculty of Biology in Podgorica for engaging students from municipality of Ulcinj or Bar in the monitoring of the Albanian water frog.	Held on March 11, 2019 and afterwards via phone calls and e-mail correspondence. Two students of biology – Suada Pilica and Aleksandra Popović have been trained for monitoring of the Skadar frog.
1.2	Meetings with 4 local environmental NGOs were held in order to present the project and engage some members in the frogs monitoring.	Meetings were held with local NGOs involved in environmental protection and which recognized the importance of this topic. Zenepa Lika (executive director, NGO Martin Schneider Jacoby Association MSJA, Ulcinj); Xhemal Peroviq (executive director of NGO Monitoring Group Ulcinj-MOGUL, partner organization) and Zecarije Sulejmanovic (MOGUL); Communication with Xhelal Hoxhiq (executive director of environmental NGO Zeleni korak, Ulcinj). NGOs have had active role in connecting with local stakeholders such as schools , volunteers involved in the fieldwork and media.

1.3	Field work conducted in order to map the Albanian water frogs and endangering factors within the KBA Delta Bojana	<p>First analysis of the current data on the distribution of the Albanian water frog within KBA Delta Bojana were done.</p> <p>Second, field visit in order to select locations to be monitored are done. Several locations at Šasko Lake and Velika plaža Beach hinterland were selected as suitable for monitoring .</p> <p>Field work to map distribution, threatening factors and to identify high-priority sites for the conservation of the Skadar frog was conducted at regular intervals from March to June 2019.</p>
1.4	At least 5 volunteers trained to carry out the monitoring of the Albanian water frog	<p>Before starting the fieldwork volunteers were familiarized with the significance of preserving the biodiversity of the Delta Bojana and the monitoring of the Skadar frog, species recognizing, and monitoring methods. Brochure, instructions and monitoring protocol are also available at project website.</p> <p>15 students, and 15 local citizens have been trained for monitoring of the Skadar frog in KBA Delta Bojana (April-May-June, 2019 regular intervals). The training began in April, while in we were conducting field study on the Skadar frog distribution and selecting suitable locations for monitoring.</p>
2.1	Project web site is established	<p>https://skadarskazaba.netlify.com/</p> <p>A website is established with instructions how to become a frog watcher, downloadable brochure, manual, data sheet, frog calls.</p>
2.2	1000 brochures on the protection of amphibians with an emphasis of the Albanian water frog and their habitats are printed	Bilingual (Albanian/Montenegrin) T shirts and brochures were disseminated during meetings, field training, school lessons, Frog day event, household visits.
2.3	100 households of Ulcinj municipality are familiar with the importance and	For interviews, we prepared Bilingual (Albanian/Montenegrin) surveys. We created two

	benefits of the existence of unique biodiversity and habitats in their immediate	<p>types of surveys - for farmers and for the citizens of Ulcinj.</p> <p>A total of 63 people from the village and 40 from the city were interviewed. The results of survey analysis are presented in the final study.</p>
2.4	Presentations about the importance of protecting the wetland species and habitats held in 4 primary and 1 secondary schools of the Ulcinj municipality	<p>Contacts with biology teachers Milijana Knežević (PS “Boško Strugar”), Redžep Lika (PS „Bedri Elezaga“), Rasim Lika (PS „Maršal Tito“) and Rita Avdiu (PS “Marko Nukulovic“) were made. In these conversations, we talked about green frogs, about water habitats with a focus on Skadar Frog. We showed the teachers how special these habitats are in their municipality and how important it is that students from schools in that area learn how valuable their environment is. The active protection of any species and their habitats largely depends on the local population, their attitude and their way of using and managing these habitats.</p> <p>Brochures and CDs with presentations and full texts of lectures in Montenegrin and Albanian languages for lower and higher grades were given to teachers to support their classroom work.</p> <p>The activity was rescheduled from May and June to autumn and winter due to greater involvement in fieldwork and organization of Frog Day event.</p>
2.5	The "Frog Day" event held with the participation of locals, children of preschool and school age of Ulcinj municipality and decision makers	<p>First the location for the Frog Day event was selected. Then Informing and referencing the Frog Day event through the media, social networks, invitations to schools and kindergartens, and visits to local entrepreneurs to demonstrate the possibility of exhibiting products that are part of ecosystem services of wetlands.</p> <p>We contacted above-mentioned schools. The “Frog day” event was announced in: articles in daily newspaper “Pobjeda” and free monthly magazine “Moj trenutak”, TV show “Boje jutro” on national TV channel “TV Vijesti, facebook page of Montenegrin Ecologist Society, instagram account of Montenegrin Ecologist Society, facebook page of Monitoring Group Ulcinj-MOGUL - project partner, facebook page of Montenegrin association of biology students, UL-info – daily bilingual (Albanian and Montenegrin) internet-based newspaper.</p>

		<p>The “Frog day” event was featured on the local (Ulcinj municipality) TV Teuta morning show, TV Teuta website, facebook page of local elementary school “Boško Strugar”, facebook page of Montenegrin Ecologist Society, instagram account of Montenegrin Ecologist Society.</p> <p>In order to boost their visibility the local women entrepreneurs were contacted to exhibit their crafts at the event. One of them took part in the event, making Frog-like cupcakes.</p> <p>The Frog day“ event was organized in the coastal town of Ulcinj on May 11, 2019. The event was open to the public and brought together about 70 attendees (teachers, school children and their parents, NGOs members, local citizens). It was devoted to protection and habitat improvement of the Skadar frog (<i>Pelophylax shqipericus</i>). The program included “Olympic frogs”, frog calling games, frog arts and crafts. Through playing frog “Olympic games” (“Frog jump”, “Bugs for me” “Catch the fly”, “Feed the frog”) children were physically active and gained knowledge about frog ecology. A group of children creatively expressed themselves through frog arts and crafts. Participants got brochures about Skadar frog, frog t-shirts, frog cupcakes and juice in frog-shaped bottles. They learned about Skadar frog and other local amphibian species and what they could do to save amphibians and their habitats.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCvTjsXbeNc</p> <p>https://youtu.be/PucLYYs0owQ</p>
2.6	Project and Study presented through social networks and media	Project and activities are presented on the project website; website, facebook and instagram accounts of our organization, partner organizations, Montenegrin association of biology students and local school.

		<p>Project and activities are presented in newspapers, magazine and TV channels and their websites and YouTube channels.</p> <p>Some of the links below:</p> <p>Frog day announcement on the Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/drustvoekologa/photos/a.232839823550572/1244753659025845/?type=3&theater</p> <p>Announcement of field work for fun monitoring: https://www.facebook.com/drustvoekologa/photos/a.232839823550572/1200937663407445/?type=3&theater</p> <p>Photos from the fieldwork on monitoring: https://www.facebook.com/drustvoekologa/posts/1252045408296670?__tn__=-R</p> <p>The Frog day, TV Teuta https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJh1bX3Spqc</p> <p>The Frog day, elementary school “Boško Strugar”, facebook page https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2318423735083362&id=1702801493312259&__tn__=-R</p> <p>The Frog day, Instagram post https://www.instagram.com/p/BxZaZvGg01E/</p>
3.1	A study containing the results of the project, protection measures, action plan and a protocol for the monitoring of the Albanian water frog produced	<p>Work on the preparation of materials for the study and analysis of scientific data was carried out in the spring of 2020. In addition to collecting basic data on amphibians and their habitats globally, the study contains all the necessary data specifically on green frogs in Montenegro, with a focus on Skadar frog. For the purposes of this study, a complete desktop analysis of all known papers, publications and other sources of information on this species in Montenegro and Albania was performed.</p>

		<p>All spatial planning documents that could concern these affected habitats were also reviewed. Based on that, recommendations were given for proper spatial development while respecting the requirements of these species and their habitats.</p> <p>Information obtained from relevant institutions as well as those obtained from local authorities on the problem and trend of hunting and smuggling of green frogs from the former Yugoslavia was also summarized and presented in the study. Data on the state of populations and endangerment factors of these habitats and species collected during this field project are also presented.</p> <p>At a later stage of the project, this study was translated into English for better visibility and use. Both versions were submitted to CEPF.</p>
3.2	<p>Project and study presented to local and national decision makers (Ulcinj Municipality, JP Morsko Dobro, EPA, MORT) as well as round tables and conferences dedicated to the protection of the Delta Bojana area and biodiversity of Montenegro.</p>	<p>Several meetings were held with relevant institutions, at which the project was presented, and the study was delivered.</p> <p>Meetings were held with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and with the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism. At these meetings, the problems faced by Skadar Frog and its habitats were clearly emphasized, and they were given clear guidelines on what we think should be improved.</p> <p>EPA, as the leading nature protection institution in Montenegro, expressed its understanding of the readiness to include our data, and announced that it would do so through the “Red Book” preparation project, and they will initiate changes to certain legal frameworks (Law on Nature Protection, specifically the corresponding bylaws "Ordinance on the detailed manner and conditions of collection, use and trade of unprotected wild species (Official Gazette of Montenegro 062/10)" and "Decision on placing under protection of certain plant and animal</p>

		<p>species 2006 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro 76/06) “) regarding the degree of protection of this species. It is expected that they will revise the mentioned bylaws in the spring of next year.</p> <p>Thanks to our project partner NGO MogUL, the study was submitted to the municipality of Ulcinj. Due to difficult communication, and due to the turbulent events in the state and municipalities, the meeting in the municipality of Ulcinj has not yet been held, but it is planned to do so in the next, calmer period.</p> <p>MES members attended on the workshop organized by the partner NGO EnvPRO, dealing with the biodiversity of Delta Bojana. The workshops were attended by: representatives of locals, representatives of local businessmen, the municipality of Ulcinj, "JP Morsko Dobro", over 5 NGOs and several independent experts in the field of diversity.</p> <p>Based on everyone's exposure, a list of ecosystem values and threats to the Bojana River Basin was made. From all this, an ecosystem qualification according to the MARISCO methodology has emerged, where Skadar Frog is recognized as a key species and wetland habitats as important habitats, where it is necessary to implement conservation measures.</p>
3.3	Findings from the Study incorporated in the future local and national strategic and planning documents and wider complementary initiatives.	<p>EPA, the leading institution, has already emphasized that it will insert collected data given in the study in the Red Books, which are in preparation. The date should be also reported in the Annual report on the state of the environment.</p> <p>The study was also personally submitted to the representatives of the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism. The meeting was held in the offices of this Ministry, which was attended by 3</p>

		MES members and one representative of the ministry. The results of the project and the study were briefly presented at the meeting. The representative of the Ministry enthusiastically accepted the study, welcomed our contribution and said that the data from this study will be used in the development of the next National Biodiversity Strategy.
<i>Implemented activities in the extended period of the project covering period September 2020 to September 2021</i>		
#	Deliverable Description	Deliverable Update
*1.1 ¹	At least 5 volunteers continued to carry out the monitoring of the Skadar frog	<p>Already existing MES volunteers and all interested students had the opportunity to participate in field work for monitoring green frogs. Volunteers were informed about the project update through social media.</p> <p>Within this project, interested volunteers went to the fields with trained people from MES and learned about monitoring green frogs and their habitats. Throughout both phases of the project, the volunteers were more or less repetitive, so that a minimum of 10 people emerged from the project who could successfully monitor the green frogs.</p>
*1.2	At least two populations of Skadar frog analysed for chytridiomycosis infection and their health status	<p>This activity has been postponed to May due to the weather conditions.</p> <p>Scientists and researchers on the project, Katarina Ljubisavljevic and Tanja Vukov, accompanied by the project coordinator and the student, worked for 5 days in the field, during which frogs were collected and afterwards the swabs were taken from the frogs. Fieldwork is done at night because at that time the frogs are calmest, and they go out when the water is warm. The frogs were collected by hand during the day, and each had to be separated in a separate container to avoid mixing the secretions.</p>

¹ This represents activities implemented in the extended period of the project covering period September 2020 to September 2021

		<p>After sampling and taking the necessary data, all frogs were returned to their original habitat.</p> <p>Laboratory analysis of samples was done by prof. Dr. Frank Pasmans, Ghent University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Pathology, Bacteriology and Poultry Diseases, with whom excellent cooperation has been established.</p> <p>The results of the analyses are presented in the report. A report on the laboratory analysis for the fungal disease was prepared. In the following period, a scientific paper will be published on this topic as the result of the fieldwork and sampling. This paper will be delivered to CEPF as soon as it is approved.</p>
*1.3	<p>National documents for possible frog trade reviewed; at least two customs officers interviewed and are familiar with frog trade issues; at least 50 locals interviewed for frog collecting issues</p>	<p>Desktop analysis of all available documents in the field of import and export of animals in Montenegro has been done.</p> <p>Data that were not publicly available were collected from the competent institutions.</p> <p>Thanks to the project partners, about 60 questionnaires were distributed and completed by the local population. CDE established cooperation with NGO UL-info, from Ulcinj, that helped in questionnaires dissemination to stakeholders and afterwards conducted statistical analysis. In communication with the competent institution for these topics, the Customs Administration, official data on the import and export of green frogs in Montenegro were obtained.</p> <p>In order to achieve this goal, some restaurants that, according to the stories of the locals, had experience in selling green frogs were visited. The problem was discussed a couple of times in public through the media, in order to better inform the general public about this topic.</p>

		<p>Frog trade report was produced. The report was handed over to local organizations from Ulcinj and posted on the website of our organization.</p>
*2.1	The "Frog Day" event held	<p>2 televisions covered the event and 3 portals wrote about it. The links are submitted below: The Frog Day, UL-info portal https://mne.ul-info.com/dan-zaba-na-saskom-jezeru-djeca-ucili-o-vodozemcima-u-svom-kraju/ The Frog Day, UL-info portal https://mne.ul-info.com/cde-u-srijedu-dan-zaba-na-saskom-jezeru/</p> <p>The Frog Day, Volim Danilovgrad portal https://volimdanilovgrad.me/cde-s-partnerima-organizovao-manifestaciju-dan-zaba/ The Frog Day, TV Teuta https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=filIGYpMHXPO The Frog Day, Facebook post https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2925768011010042&id=1577059989214191 The video from TV vijesti can not be found online.</p> <p>The event in 2021 brought together students from schools in Ulcinj, which are directly close to wetlands within the Bojana Delta. The event was organized on Lake Shas in Ulcinj, one of the most important habitats of this species in our country. The event was organized on a beautiful meadow estate in front of the Shas restaurant, who generously gave us their yards for the needs of organizing this event.</p> <p>The night before, we set traps for animals, and finally, we had to show a Skadar and a green frog, 4 species of snakes (3 unpoisoned and 1 nose horned viper snake), a pond turtle, a carp, a few common newts, and a water bull. First, the children were introduced to the rules of behaviour in the vicinity of</p>

		<p>snakes and all safety measures were taken by teachers and members of the MES team.</p> <p>The snakes were shown exclusively by a long-term expert in the field of herpetology as well as holding educational workshops - Vuk Ilovic.</p> <p>In addition to one venomous snake (carrying horned snakes), all other snakes were non-venomous. Children were not allowed contact with the venomous, while non-venomous ones could approach and touch them if they wished, all under the supervision and instructions of a snake expert.</p> <p>The event went successfully! About 30 children with their teachers, some even with their parents, and 3 out of 4 elementary schools in Ulcinj attended (4th school did not attend because of the pandemic situation). In addition to showing the animals, the children participated in the frog Olympics, they all received diplomas for participation.</p>
*2.2	Project updates presented through project website, social networks and media	<p>The topic of the project was promoted regularly through social media and participation in certain television shows, below some of the links:</p> <p>https://www.instagram.com/p/COdX8nIrPRD/ https://www.instagram.com/p/CObBTFWryh/ https://www.instagram.com/p/COCssP5LgYI/ https://www.instagram.com/p/CNXhlavrGQX/ https://www.instagram.com/p/CMyyN2nr7Gk/ https://www.instagram.com/p/CK1c4d8A09N/ https://www.instagram.com/p/CKyW1SCg5In/ https://www.instagram.com/p/CKyVUTQghrV/ https://www.instagram.com/p/CHhdI5UAKRH/ https://www.instagram.com/p/BxR0Yj2ACGG/ https://www.instagram.com/p/BxrROpAF7Wj/ https://www.instagram.com/p/CQDK0o0F4A8/ https://www.pcnen.com/portal/2021/05/31/skadar-ska-zaba-endemska-vrsta-na-pragu-izumiranja/ https://volimdanilovgrad.me/cde-s-partnerima-organizovao-manifestaciju-dan-zaba/ https://mne.ul-info.com/cde-u-srijedu-dan-zaba-na-saskom-jezeru/ https://mne.ul-info.com/dan-zaba-na-saskom-jezeru-djeca-ucili-o-vodozemcima-u-svom-kraju/</p>

		https://mne.ul-info.com/skadarska-zaba-pokazatelj-zdravlja-zivotne-sredine/ https://skadarskazaba.netlify.app/docs/clanak-pobjeda.pdf https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/17849409797543757/ https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/17849409797543757/ https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/17849409797543757/ https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/17849409797543757/ https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/17849409797543757/ https://youtu.be/BCvTjsXbeNc https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUt6uASurxo https://youtu.be/tjEkj_IDxrw https://youtu.be/9b2xUMsaCLA https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=filGYpMHXP0 https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2925768011010042&id=1577059989214191
*3.1	<p>The Study and research findings, capacity building and policy development activities are aligned with the NGO Envpro CEPF funded project: Enabling environment for joint bottom up protection and sustainable development planning for Bojana river basin</p>	<p>Through joint planning activities and involving each other organization in their own projects and research, it has further enhanced cooperation between the two organizations. Experiences and knowledge in the field of environmental protection were exchanged, especially in the field of environmental research and monitoring of KBA Delta Bojana. Thanks to this project, EnvPRO engaged members of the MES organization to participate in the collection of data for the biodiversity of the Delta Bojana River, within the project, which is also supported by CEPF. As part of this project, MES members participated in research and later wrote reports for herpetofauna and plants.</p> <p>As part of the same project, a workshop was held, where summarized data and biodiversity values of the KBA Delta Bojana area were presented.</p>
Additional Activites		<p>On July 12, 2019, we had a meeting with colleagues from the NGO EcoAlbania regarding cooperation on the conservation of the Albanian water frog and its habitats in Montenegro and Albania. Eco Albania</p>

	<p>implemented a similar project in Albania. We visited Velika plaza and Šasko Lake and exchanged our experiences in project implementation and agreed upon a joint action plan for the conservation of the Skadar frog. Since the English version of the study was published at the end of the project, it was sent to EcoAlbania for use in pdf format.</p>
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6. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Monitoring manual and data sheet were prepared according to recommendations from “Monitoring manual for lake-bound species and habitats” Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, which includes Skadar frog (=Albanian water frog). (submitted)

<https://skadarskazaba.netlify.com/>

The website was created as part of the project. On this site you can find all the information about all the details about Skadar Frog, its habitat, the importance of their preservation, the method of research and data collection. In addition, the project summary, project activities, materials and the like are described on the site.

This site is bilingual and will soon be supplemented with data from the previous period and will be available on the official website of the organization.

A bilinugual (Albanian and Montenegrin) brochure named “Let’s save the habitats of the Skadar frog (=Albanian water frog)” was prepared with most important information about this frog species, threats to Amphibians, ecosystem services and tips how to protect amphibians and their habitats. Brochures were distributed to local schools to support education as well as to interested local people.

Promotional T-shirts with stylized Skadar frog in contaminated habitat, bilingual (Albanian and Montenegrin) parole „ Let’s save the habitats of the Skadar frog (=Albanian water frog)”, were printed and disseminated to school children and their teachers on the „Frog day“ event and during visits to schools and volunteers during the field work. (photos of T-shirts submitted).

Two types of billingual (Albainan/Montenegrin) surveys were created for farmers and for the citizens of Ulcinj in order to assess their perceptions of wetlands and amphibians, ecosystem services, farming practices, and their own role in protecting natural environment.

Report for Analysis of the frequency of chitridiomycosis and health status in two populations of Skadar frog in the area of KBA Delta Bojana. This report was written by project experts Katarina Ljubisavljevic and Tanja Vukov, based on data collected in May 2021.

Data entry protocol for sampling chitridiomycosis on green frogs, for each individual during the research and sampling. All required data from the protocol were taken, in order for the data to be harmonized and used.

Report from Frog Trade. This report shows the attitude of problem of green frog exporting in Montenegro of both sides, the institution and the local population

Report on the proposed method of managing wetland habitats. This report was prepared by herpetologist and researcher Vuk IkoVIC.

Publication: Protection and Conservation of the Endangered Shkodra Frog and Its Habitats in the Bojana / Buna Delta, which is available in Montenegrin and English.

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>.

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.

We have learned that it is very important to have the support of the local NGOs in the project implementation and that the activities that are being implemented need to be properly scheduled. It is also very important to include the principle of bilingualism (Montenegrin and Albanian) since most of the inhabitants of the KBA Delta Bojana are of Albanian nationality. This was not foreseen at the planning stage, but later on, it proved to be very important. The local stakeholders were very pleased with bilingual promotional and educational material (brochures, T-shirts, Frog Day announcements, children's songs about nature played during the Frog Day event, surveys (questionnaires), presentations, and materials for teachers). This made the materials more comprehensible to them and we were able to reach them and convey relevant information.

During this project, we confirmed how indispensable the support of the local population is. People who live and depend directly on that region can best describe what the real situation is, what changes have taken place, and in which direction the population trend on species that live in

ecosystems located in their immediate environment is going. In addition, in order to achieve good communication and cooperation with local people, it is very essential to establish good cooperation with local NGOs. They are necessary for the promotion of projects and ideas, and local people trust us much more if we are supported by some of their local NGOs.

We have also learned that in order to convey a message effectively and to influence the consciousness of a wide audience, promoting stories constantly in the media and social networks is inevitable. In this way, we managed to interest a large number of media through a post on social networks and to raise the story of the problem of green frogs export to a higher level.

Contacts with biology teachers Milijana Knežević (PS “Boško Strugar”), Redžep Lika (PS „Bedri Elezaga”), Rasim Lika (PS „Maršal Tito”) and Rita Avdiu (PS ”Marko Nuculovic”) were made. In these conversations, we talked about green frogs, about water habitats with a focus on Skadar Frog. We showed the teachers how special these habitats are in their municipality and how important it is that students from schools in that area learn how valuable their environment is. Because the active protection of any species and their habitats largely depends on the local population, their attitude and their way of using and managing these habitats.

Brochures and CDs with presentations and full texts of lectures in Montenegrin and Albanian languages for lower and higher grades were given to teachers to support their classroom work. The activity was rescheduled from May and June to autumn and winter due to greater involvement in fieldwork and organization of Frog Day event.

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.**

No Safeguard was triggered in this project.

Additional Funding

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

No additional fundings gained for 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.

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
Number of hectares of Coastal KBAs under improved management	0	This project did not contribute to this indicator
Number of threatened species from coastal KBAs seeing status improved	1	The IUCN status of the Albanian/Skadar frog has been improved this year, in the middle of the project duration. In 2019 the reassessment on the global Red List was changed from endangered (EN) to vulnerable (VU) and published on IUCN Red List in 2020, but this project did not contribute to it directly. However, we have contributed to the improvement of the status of species and habitats directly through this project on the national level. This was achieved by initiating with the relevant institutions (Ministry of ecology, spatial planning and urbanism and Environmental Protection Agency) the amendment of Law on Nature

		Protection, particularly corresponding bylaws "Ordinance on the detailed manner and conditions of collection, use and trade of unprotected wild species (Official Gazette of Montenegro 062/10)" and "Decision on placing under protection of certain plant and animal species 2006 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro 76/06) ".This law is full of irregularities and the amended part is necessary in order to more effectively protect both species and habitats.
Number of threatened freshwater species seeing status improved	1	See above

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
5 volunteers trained for monitoring	10 volunteers trained for monitoring	Training for young researchers on monitoring Skadar Frog and its habitats in the Bojana / Buna Delta

**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. 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***

** 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 googlemap, right click on the center of your protected area, and 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 *

** Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were improved due to 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.*

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 googlemap, right click on the center of your production landscape, and select "What's here?", and copy the latitude and longitude appearing in the popup window.

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 benefiting

*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.

The Law on Nature Protection of Montenegro is full of some irregularities, in the sense that the data are outdated, and that the status, number and condition of populations of certain plant and animal species are not correct.

Law on Nature Protection, specifically the corresponding bylaws "Ordinance on the detailed manner and conditions of collection, use and trade of unprotected wild species (Official Gazette of Montenegro 062/10)" and "Decision on placing under protection of certain plant and animal species 2006 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro 76/06)" is in the process of being amended. We have contributed to this through this project, by discussing this topic through two meetings with the Nature Protection Agency, pointing out to them the irregularities in this law. The data we came across were presented in the publication, and in a couple of guest appearances on local television and portals, we talked about this topic.

EPA has announced that it will revise the list of protected species this and next year will make national red lists of different biodiversity groups, including amphibians, It has also announced that will revise the "Ordinance on the detailed manner and conditions of collection, In this regard, it is expected that by the end of 2022, these legal frameworks will be revised and upgraded

Our NGO initiated this process even before the start of the project and sent an official request to the EPA.

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

No.	Name of Law, Policy or Regulation	Scope (mark with x)			Topic(s) addressed (mark with x)															
		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	Law on Nature Protection (Bylaws "Ordinance on the detailed manner and conditions of collection, use and trade of unprotected wild species (Official Gazette of Montenegro 062/10)" and "Decision on placing under protection of certain plant and animal species 2006 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro 76/06)"																			
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	Montenegro	Expected date 2022	We expect that the revision of these bylaws will contribute to real protection on the ground given that many species in Montenegro, although protected, suffer numerous pressures and threats.	We have revised this law regarding protected species and officially pointed out all the irregularities we found.
2				
3				

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			
...			

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	NGO UL-info	2021	Y	Montenegro	Strong cooperation has been achieved with this local portal, which will continue to write and report on other activities of our organization in the area of Ulcinj. Cooperation with this NGO has been strengthened through partnerships in other projects of our organization.
2					
3					
...					

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					
2					

*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				
2				
3				

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)
<i>Pelophylax</i>	<i>P. shqipericus</i>	Skadar/Albanian Frog	VU	-Species monitoring -Habitat research species -Analysis of fungal disease	Unknown

				-Publication of the study that contains all the necessary information about this species as well as a proposal to improve its condition – “Protection and Conservation of the Endangered Skadar Frog and Its Habitats in the Bojana/Buna Delta” -Sending the obtained scientific data to the relevant institutions -Initiating the amendment of the Law on Nature Protection (see Section 18)	
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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: Montenegrin Ecologists Society

Generic email address: drustvoekologa@gmail.com