

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

Date

29th of June 2020

CEPF Grant 110830

Grantee

Udruga Dinarica

Project Title

Conservation of steno-endemic species Mostar minnow (lat. *Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus*) in Mostarsko Blato

Project Location

Mostarsko Blato, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Udruga Dinarica
2. Grant title: Conservation of steno-endemic species Mostar minnow (lat. Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus) in Mostarsko Blato
3. Grant number: 110830
4. Grant amount (US dollars): USD 19,974
5. Proposed dates of grant: 15 June 2020 to 15 June 2021
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Bosnia and Herzegovina
7. Date of preparation of this document: 29.6.2020

A. Project background

Short Project Description: This project will enhance the knowledge base for an endemic species Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus (Mostar minnow) in Mostarsko Blato, estimate population and assess the habitat and threats, especially with the introduction of drainage canals in 2010 and 2016 by a local hydropower plant that drains the marsh in which the endemic species spawns in winter/spring period. This research would be the first reference research for preserving the endemic species Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus and the KBA biodiversity of Mostarsko Blato.

B. Participatory implementation

Mostar minnow is important and well known in the local population as a source of protein. 50 years ago it was widely spread, along with frogs and eels it was a traditional dish in the area. Now the population has severely declined and one kilo of Mostar minnow costs 25 marks and frequently it is substituted by sardines. A recruited scientist will conduct a study of the species with a focus on its population. Additional expert will be engaged to conduct a socio-economic and legal analysis. Based on both documents and consultation with stakeholder an Action plan for its preservation of Mostar minnow will be developed. Local stakeholders will be involved through meetings, presentations, distribution of the Action Plan and other findings. Local stakeholders will further be involved by disseminating summary of results through workshops, distribution to local and national media. The distribution of the study results will involve the government sector, private sector and other stakeholders. The media press releases, based on the study results summary, will aim to make authorities take action and preserve the Mostarsko Blato ecosystem and its biodiversity. All of them will be given a chance to comment on the materials. This will give a good ground for further debate with stakeholders on preservation of the area. Since Udruga Dinarica staff are from the area they have good relations with the local communities and they will all be involved in the campaign. All activities will involve stakeholders through presentation of findings. A mailing list will be made where materials will be sent to stakeholders for comments and feedback. Local communities are the most important. They will be consulted in all stages of the project through workshops, focus groups, individual meetings and mailing lists.

The identified stakeholders in the project are the following:

- Elektroprivreda HZ HB (Electric Company)
- Local Government of Široki Brijeg
- Local Government of Mostar
- Hercegovina Neretva Canton Government
- West Herzegovina Canton Government
- Local Communities in villages surrounding Mostarsko Blato including Religious leaders (priests), and mjesne zajednice (local community associations)

- Neretva 1933 Fishermen Association
- Borak DSR Fishermen Association
- Adriatic Sea Watershed Agency
- Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Other local NGO's, Associations
- Garbage disposal companies

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

Most affected in the project are:

- The local communities – over time they have seen a decline in biodiversity of Mostarsko blato and also a fall in the population of Mostar minnow. A lot of the villages around Mostarsko blato are depopulated, but remaining population is highly influenced by this decline in biodiversity. They would be informed about all the benefits the protection of Mostar minnow would entail for the region
- Electric Company – this project aims to stop the EC from pouring concrete on sinkholes. Hopefully this project will limit their freedom to do whatever they want on Mostarsko blato. They are the biggest problem that led to the decline of the population of Mostar minnow
- Anglers associations – Mostarsko blato is not a big angling place since it does not have a big body of water. This project can only have a positive effect on anglers associations in educating them on Mostar minnow but also working with them to preserve the species.
- Restaurants in the surrounding villages – given the findings restaurants or illegal sellers of the fish would be effected either by a ban in offering the fish or a reduction of the offer to save the population.
- Garbage disposal companies – garbage disposal companies and other waste producers would be informed of no go zones which are important for the Mostar minnow. Illegal garbage dumping is a big problem in Mostarsko blato.

As mentioned in part B of this document they will all be included in all stages of the project, materials will be presented and distributed to them. They will also be given a chance to give their contribution and comment on the materials.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

Aim of the project is to enhance their knowledge base about the endemic specie Mostar minnow and its effect on the biodiversity system surrounding them. This project will provide more information to local communities to preserve their tradition and heritage enveloped in the endemic species living in their surroundings. The local communities will be included in decision making through meetings where the project team will present to them all relevant information about the project and findings. The meetings will be held when project results are obtained. They will also be targeted through media, press releases and social media. Mailing lists will be made and project results will be sent to stakeholders for comments and for future advocacy of the cause. Sustainable approaches will be thought through in order to ensure the future coexistence and preservation of the endemic species, people and the hydropower plant, waste

disposal and other modern day threats. These approaches will be worked through in the Action Plan mentioned in the project Letter of Intent part A, which will be a document that concludes all the project activities and sets forth recommendations.

Most affected in the project are local communities, Electric Company, anglers associations, restaurants in the surrounding villages and garbage disposal companies

By mapping sinkholes we would create recommendations for no go zones and this would influence the municipalities and Electric Company to rethink their further plans. It will give a good argument for any further debate with the municipalities and EC. Since the sale of Mostar minnow is already illegal, we would negotiate with the and inform the local communities, anglers associations and restaurants of the damages they can cause if they overfish or fish at all.

By knowing where the sinkholes are we would strongly advocate that people do not dispose of their garbage in those people places. Illegal garbage disposal is a common problem in Mostarsko blato. Also, garbage disposal companies will be informed on where these zones of high priority for Mostar minnow are.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

This grievance mechanism must include, at a minimum, the following elements.

- Email and telephone contact information for the grantee organization.: Email vkordic@wwfadria.org phone: +387 36 830 270
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team. Liz Smith liz.smith@birdlife.org
- Email and telephone contact information for the local World Bank office: mail_to_bosnia@worldbank.org, +387 33 251-500
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: Olivier Langrand cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- A statement describing how you will inform stakeholders of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism (e.g., posters, signboards, public notices, public announcements, use of local languages).
- You should include the following text, exactly, in any 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 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.”

Following the guidance above, describe the grievance mechanism that you will use.

During the first meeting with stakeholders we will explain the grievance mechanism. The contact information of our organization hierarchy well as of the CEPF Regional Implementation. The grievance mechanism will be explained to stakeholders as part of the meeting to build their capacity to recognize conservation measures. The conflict resolution follows a four steps approach: a- Any complaints would be addressed first by Udruga Dinarica and WWF Adria. Upon reception of the complaint, the project coordinator would organize a meeting with a representative of the authority in charge and the person complaining, to find a solution. b- If no satisfactory solution is found, the complaint will be raised ro Grant Director for mediation. c- If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. d- 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.” Grievances raised by the grantees will be communicated to the Regional Implementation Team for CEPF (Birdlife International) and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days, together with a proposed response.

F. Implementation Arrangements

Implementation of the project and its safeguard mechanisms is the sole responsibility of Udruga Dinarica an exclusive partner of WWF in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through obtaining research permits for field work we are obliged by law to contact the Federal Ministry in charge of the area, Cantonal authorities including the agriculture and water inspectors and the police. Minutes of research will be done which have to be sent to the Federal Ministry in charge. Relations with the local communities will be managed as prescribed by the project agreement and additional documents required by CEPF which will suffice the involvement of local communities and respect safeguards requirements imposed by WWF and CEPF.