

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal	INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
Project Title:	Developing Sustainable Water Management Practices to Conserve Environmental Flow in Ohrid Lake Region.
Date of Report:	January 2016
Report Author and Contact Information:	Endri Haxhiraj Cel 0682121765 endri@iep-al.org

CEPF Region: Mediterranean Basin

Strategic Direction: No 2

Grant Amount: 13050 U\$D

Project Dates: September 2014-December 2015

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner): Pogradec Municipality. Pogradec Municipality

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

Our project was based on the “Establish the sustainable management of water catchments and the wise use of water resources with a focus on the priority corridors of the Balkans” strategy of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

According to the “2.3. Support innovative financing mechanisms for conserving and restoring freshwater ecosystems and traditional water catchments”, the project has contributed by introducing the local authorities with the drip irrigation technique and to consider it for the local investments. Through the strategy document produced in the frame of the project, it supports also the drip irrigation technique to be considered by the state agricultural financing schemes in Albania.

According to the “2.4. Facilitate and support adaptation to climate change via improving water use efficiency in agricultural landscapes and allowing environmental flows for key biodiversity areas”, the project published a toolkit with contemporary practices for sustainable development and climate change adaptation delivered to the community, a pilot project on efficient irrigation for the Ohrid lake conservation delivered to the local authorities and other stakeholders and a position letter for the integrated water management delivered widely. In these documents sustainable investments on adaptation of climate change and other ecosystem threats are considered.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

- Awareness raising on the protection of Ohrid Lake and water management to the Local Authorities, rural communities, school children and other stakeholders,
- Starting and ongoing cooperation with Macedonian counterparts on the protection of Ohrid Lake basin, by setting the foundations for future projects between the two countries.
- Providing several strategic and technical documents to the local authorities and stakeholders: (A pilot project, a toolkit, a strategy, and a feasibility study)
- A position letter for the integrated water management was released from the Albanian (Institute for Environmental Policy) and Macedonian (Grashnica) NGOs working in Ohrid Lake Region.
- Awareness raising in general among the Albanian public through publications on protecting the Ohrid Lake basin.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

Species Conserved:

Corridors Created:

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

Success: The municipality of Pogradec agree and its ready to implement a general water management practice taking in consideration the IEP study.

Challenge: The municipality of Pogradec have to provide funds in order to implement such a management practice in short terms.

Success: The pupils in Lin village showed a lot of interest and requested more information and involvement on protecting Ohrid Lake the IEP meeting was an important event in short terms (impacting their families regarding the actual pollution) and in long term (dedication on conservation practices).

Challenge: Since the area is affected by unemployment and other social issues, inhabitants around the lake are interested mainly in providing financial incomes and less to the pollution is being accumulated around the lake.

Success: The articles and pictures on the issues facing Ohrid Lake were disseminated via IEP website and FB page, and generated a lot of interest and comments, as there is little information on the pollution and water management issues in the Ohrid Lake basin in Albania.

Challenge: The administrative reform concluded in Albania in June 2015 affected the ongoing of the project, due to the structure of Albanian politics. Due to that, the implementation of some components had to be postponed a month later.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

A positive unexpected impact is the consideration given to the IEP pilot project by the municipality of Pogradec. Their willingness to implement such a project is limited by the financial sources this municipality have.

Project Components

Project Components: Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.

Component 1 Planned: Facilitate and support the development of pilot project that help climate change adaptations, efficient irrigation techniques, biodiversity conservation, and prevention of water pollution;

Component 1 Actual at Completion: A pilot project document for Lin village (northwest of Ohrid Lake) was developed, published and introduced to the Municipality of Pogradec, water experts, stakeholders and NGOs. This pilot project explains a practical and ecological way to face the climate change consequences and being independent from the Ohrid lake water. The document shows elements of efficient irrigation techniques and water management system for a better performance and what is more important, the practical way of its implementation in the field. This technique is demonstrated to prevent water pollution and conserve the biodiversity.

**Component 2 Planned: Introduction of innovative models to the local communities to save water -Drip Irrigation & - Automatic Irrigation Control Center, adapt to climate change, create conditions for biodiversity and decrease the water pollution;
Revival of traditional ways of conserving water without harming the environment;**

Component 2 Actual at Completion: A toolkit on Drip irrigation and other ecological methods on water management was completed, printed out and distributed to participants in the meetings with local communities in Lin village and Pogradec town, and also copies were give at the municipality of Pogradec to further distribute them to the local community. The toolkit is also available for download from IEP's website (in Albanian), for further dissemination. The toolkit was developed in a simple language in order to be more understandable to the local communities where it was disseminated.

The toolkit introduces to farmers, rural and urban communities, and authorities:

- drip irrigation as a way to conserve water and minimize runoff of nutrients and pollution of Lake Ohrid;
- water management with SCADA system;
- rainwater harvesting;
- wetlands for nutrient reductions, creation of habitats, wastewater treatment, and decrease of pollution;
- composting for villages, to create humus and decrease nutrients in Lake Ohrid;
- use of sludge from the wastewater treatment as compost for farms;
- buffer zones to protect biodiversity and watershed;
- stabilizing of canals and slopes;
- stabilizing of paths.

Component 3 Planned: Introduction of ideas on innovative financing schemes to conserve water, through principles like: user-pays principle, polluter-pays principle, subsidies the good, tax the bad; Creation of a sustainable water management strategy for Pogradec Municipality.

Component 3 Actual at Completion: During the project, the IEP team conducted several meetings with the Municipality of Pogradec which is the local authority for the Albanian part of Ohrid Lake. In these meeting, user-pays principles were introduced. The IEP team suggested that the local authority should enforce the law with penalties against polluters even in the suburb areas e.g. Lin village.

The IEP prepared and published a water management strategy based on the most recent and successful references. The strategy was delivered to the municipality and other important stakeholders.

Component 4 Planned: Feasibility study and research on status.

Component 4 Actual at Completion: Research on contemporary methods for water conservation, agricultural water treatment procedures and practices, rain water harvesting through rain water catchment ponds, efficient irrigation systems – Drip Irrigation – Automatic Irrigation depending on the culture of agriculture. Field trips and research on the current situation of spring water usage on agriculture, mining and other businesses, toxic discharge hotspots, erosion, pollution and human activity, actual urbanization level.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

There no components unrealized.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

There are still hot spots on the shores of Lake Ohrid, part of Pogradec Municipality, especially in Lin village where pollution and lack of awareness of simple, but effective practices and methods to minimize water pollution, are posing a serious threat to the ecosystems near this village. In order to solve this problem, we involved and brought together different stakeholders, like local authorities, inhabitants of the village and other stakeholders, and mediated exchange of information between the parties. Also, valuable info was collected from our project, that can be used by the Municipality and can form the basis for the implementation of the recommendation produced by our project.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

Climate change issues are actually perceived as something separated from human lives and without impact for the Ohrid lake. Meeting with Ohrid stakeholders, sharing information and hearing their opinions made things more clear, raising awareness on them.

Producing and delivering a group of documents created an opportunity for local and other stakeholders to find simple and practical information.

The structural reform of the local authorities was a challenge (Municipalities will now take all competences from the former small communes), because the staff was expelled. However we managed to deal with the situation and after several meetings we achieved to set the cooperation between the Municipality of Pogradec and IEP.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

The continuing of cooperation among cross border NGOs require further meetings in order to know each other interests and keys to find the appropriate way for the cooperation.

We believe that involving pupils of the elementary school of Lin, is a nice strategy for awareness raising since they may influence on their parents, something that we started during this project, although it wasn't foreseen during the writing of the project.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

**Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*

A) Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)

B) Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)

C) Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

This project set the basis for further cooperation between IEP and Pogradec Municipality, to take further the results from this project, and implement them in concrete, tangible projects, and set the basis for further and common projects between IEP and Grashnica NGO from Ohrid in order to conserve the ecosystems and water quality in Lake Ohrid. The project produced several components that can be used not only in Pogradec, but all over Albania and the Balkan region. IEP, Pogradec Municipality and Grashnica NGO are already cooperation in implementing further projects stemming from findings from this project.

We will continue the dissemination of the results of this project, during other events that will be on water management in Albania, like the coming meeting on Drin River in Tirana, another meeting from Ministry of Agriculture on Water Management. We will also disseminate the findings from this project in any other events where opportunity arises, and via our mediums on the internet, and keep in touch with Pogradec Municipality on implementing the recommendations from this project in the coming months.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

The involvement of the elementary school of Lin, was an unplanned awareness raising strategy and was achieved after the meetings with stakeholders..

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

The project had no adverse impacts on the environment, natural habitats and forests, resources and indigenous people, and the project didn't involve any use of herbicides, pesticides, insecticides or any other poison for the removal of invasive species.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

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

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Endri Haxhiraj

Organisation Name: Institute for Environmental Policy

Mailing Address: Rruga Mine Peza, Vila nr 2, Kati 2, Dera 1, Tirane, Albania

Tel: +355682121765

Fax:

Email: iep@iep-al.org

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	No			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.				

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit													
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services	Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
Lin village inhabitants/ pupils	X							X	X				X					X	X		
Pogradec authorities and community						X		X					X					X	X		
Total	1					1		2	1				2		2			2	2		

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:

