

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name	<i>Ornitološko društvo Naše ptice (Ornithological society Naše ptice)</i>
Project Title	Hutovo blato Nature Park and Mostarsko blato as safe breeding, stop-over and wintering sites for birds
CEPF GEM No.	66264
Date of Report	26 June 2017

CEPF Hotspot: Mediterranean Basin Hotspot

Strategic Direction: 3. Improve the conservation and protection status of 44 priority key biodiversity areas 3.2. Develop financial mechanisms that support protected areas while enhancing sustainable livelihood and promoting community management of priority key biodiversity areas.

Grant Amount: 48550.00 \$

Project Dates: 2016/4/1 2017/5/31

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

Naše ptice: local NGO - involved in the project as Project Leader and Coordinator of all actions, involved in monitoring activities, organizing workshops, contacting the media, organizing the Ornithofestival and administrative affairs

EuroNatur: international organization, is co-financing a project and supervises the monitoring activities as a signatory of the Agreement of Cooperation "on a voluntary and joint cooperation on the establishment of a monitoring system of birds and control of bird crime in Nature Park Hutovo blato and Neretva Delta", and is involved in the development of Monitoring system for Mostarsko blato. EuroNatur is also involved in organization of the Ornithofestival and media coverage of the project.

Hutovo Blato Nature Park: local Public Enterprise Institution, in according to the Agreement, its rangers are involved in illegal hunting monitoring.

Hunting organization "Galeb": a local organization, its members are involved in monitoring the illegal hunting in accordance with the Agreement. The members of this organization are involved in the workshops organized by Naše ptice.

Lijepa Naša NGO: local organization involved in organization of the Ornithofestival and monitoring of illegal activities as described in the Agreement and media dissemination of project activities.

Conservation Impacts

2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF investment strategy set out in the ecosystem profile

The awareness raising activities and popularization and development of nature-based birdwatching tourism in the area of Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato are correlated to the investment priority 1.2 "Raise awareness and influence the choices of the European tourist market and tourism businesses in favor of tourism practices appropriate for nature". The preservation of natural values of Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato through the involvement of the Municipality of Čapljina and number of local NGOs is correlated to the investment priority 3.2. "develop financial mechanisms that support protected areas while enhancing sustainable livelihood and promoting community management of priority key biodiversity areas", by encouraging future development of eco-tourism based on birdwatching in targeted areas. The project activities involve local stakeholders (NGOs, hunting organizations), which use their capacities to raise general awareness about the values and importance of Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato for migrating, wintering and breeding birds, which corresponds to the 3.3 investment priority "raise awareness of the importance of priority key biodiversity areas including those that have irreplaceable plant and marine biodiversity".

3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

1. Establishment of bird monitoring and monitoring of poaching in Hutovo blato

Due to the problems in financing of protected area Hutovo blato Nature park, the bird protection and other park values have been at a very low level for years. By involving non-governmental organizations through funding the ranger service, the situation has significantly improved. The number of birds has increased, especially in the winter, the level of the poaching has decreased and the awareness of local hunters on the importance of fighting the poaching has increased. The supervision activities have continued through this project, so that the good results obtained during the previous periods will not be jeopardized. The support was provided to the ranger service through joint monitoring, purchase of equipment, workshop organization, and co-operation with all participants the area (hunting associations, police, government institutions). The monitoring of birds number and the monitoring of illegal activities were performed every month, and a special attention was paid during the migration period. The established monitoring protocol was adopted by the Park Administration. According to this protocol it is necessary to continue monitoring in the future.

2. Establishment bird monitoring and monitoring of poaching on Mostarsko blato.

Mostarsko blato was recognized as an extremely important karst polje with very rich biodiversity. However, the full biodiversity research has not been systematically carried out, and there are no clear indicators of the condition of this area. Also, this area has no protection status at local, state or international level. The activities that have been carried out by the electrical industry for the

last few years represent a significant threat to the destruction of habitats and the species that inhabit this area. The inadequate protection has also led to the emergence of illegal activities by the local people. The inadequate use of space is a threat to total biodiversity. In order to determine the condition of this area, especially the status of birds, a monitoring protocol was established. The protocol was developed based on the already existing protocol for Hutovo blato. The monitoring points (a total of seven) and number of outbound field observations were established. According to the protocol, the monitoring was carried out for one year of the project.

3. Strengthening the capacity of the monitoring service in Hutovo blato Nature Park (procurement of equipment for rangers , organization of educational workshops, monitoring cooperation)

In order to strengthen the rangers service of the Hutovo blato Nature Park, the necessary equipment (working clothes and boots, photo equipment) was purchased. The workshops were organized with the aim of improving the monitoring and cooperation with hunting associations, local police, border police and governmental institutions. The support has been provided to rangers and park managers in monitoring activities during the hunting season, migration period and the breeding season.

4. Cooperation with hunting associations (organization of educational workshops, participation in monitoring)

The cooperation with the hunting association "Galeb" from Čapljina has continued during this reporting period. According to this example, the cooperation with the hunters that have a concession on the area of Mostarsko blato has been achieved. The cooperation with the hunting association has also been achieved through educational workshops, joint monitoring and joint publication of protected bird species of Mostarsko blato.

5. Organization of 5th and 6th Ornithofestival

The aim of organizing the Ornithofestivals was to promote the protection and study of birds, and to develop the birdwatching as a tourist attraction. Two ornithofestivals were organized during the reporting period, one in Hutovo blato and the other in Mostarsko blato. As part of the festivals, the research articles were published and the promotional activities were done among the local and wider community, in order to raise awareness.

6. Organization of exhibition on Mostarsko blato

Since Mostarsko blato has no protection status at the moment, and in order to raise the awareness of the values of this area, an exhibition was created and opened during the Ornithofestival. The exhibition showed, through text and pictures, the most unique natural values of Mostarsko blato, but also pointed out the most immediate threats to this area. The exhibition was set up in Široki Brijeg and was available to the public for a few days. The representatives of the authorities participated in the opening ceremony of the exhibition. This exhibition is a part of future efforts to protect the area of Mostarsko blato.

7. Creating educational materials (leaflets, tables)

All activities were followed by promotional and educational materials in the form of educational materials for students, brochures for hunters and the wider community and educational boards. All the materials showed the values of Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato.

8. Marking internationally important dates for nature protection

Some of the world's important dates were celebrated in order to increase the awareness of birds and habitats protection.

9. Collaboration with nature protection inspectors

10. Media promotion

All activities were monitored through the media releases, which means that more people became familiar with the project.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each long-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

Preservation of natural values of Hutovo Blato and Mostarsko blato as the most important biodiversity hotspots of the Western Balkans, with special focus on the protection of one of the most important stop-over sites for migratory birds travelling along the Eastern Adriatic.

4. Actual progress toward long-term impacts at completion

The number of bird species and individuals in Hutovo blato has increased. In Hutovo blato, a total of 23,274 birds were registered during the winter counts (IWC). The poaching level has reduced in Hutovo blato. In Mostarsko blato, a record number of common cranes (1657 birds in March) has been recorded, as well as an increased number of raptors such as *Falco vespertinus* (for which the potential breeding activity has been observed). It is planned to prepare the documentation for the proposal to protect of Mostarsko blato as an IBA.

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

List each short-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

1. Better control of poaching and illegal hunting in Hutovo Blato and Mostarsko blato established.
2. Capacities of the ranger service of Hutovo blato Nature Park improved.
3. Increased interest of local community for preservation of natural value of targeted areas by promoting new touristic program (birdwatching).

5. Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion

The work on monitoring of birds and poaching in Hutovo blato based on protocol which is part of Agreement of Cooperation was continued. Based on early experience and situation on Hutovo blato, a protocol for monitoring of birds and poaching in Mostarsko blato was developed. The monitoring teams have conducted the monitoring activities three times per month for 13 months (8 – 10 hours per day), in both areas. The teams were made up of members of the hunting organizations, the NGO "Lijepa Naša" and two persons employed on the project. During the other days, two persons employed 100% on the project have performed the routine controls (2-3 hours per day). The monthly reports with lists of recorded bird species and their abundance, and also the situation of poaching (the number of registered poachers, gunshots, cartridges) were regularly submitted.

The workshop for rangers of Hutovo blato Nature Park was organized on topic of needs for better control of bird crime and protection of habitats and important bird species. The protocol for improved mapping and counting of selected bird species was presented. After the workshop, the rangers continued participating in joint actions. The equipment necessary for better monitoring of birds and bird crime was purchased and repaired.

The workshop for hunters from the region of Mostarsko blato, with the aim for better understanding of natural values of this area was organized. The workshop was attended by 30 participants.

Six workshops were organized for students living in the area of Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato. About 350 elementary school students, from fifth to ninth grade, attended the workshops. The workshops were organized both in schoolrooms and as an excursion (field workshop) to Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato. The educational materials were developed for the workshops, and the awards for students were provided. For field workshops, the transport, food and refreshments, promotional materials and boat rides on Hutovo blato were provided. The workshops were organized on internationally important dates (World Wetlands Day, World Migrations day, etc.) Two educational tables were made and set up in the schoolyards.

A questionnaire for the local community of Mostarsko blato was created. The questions were related to the land use, needs of the local population, understanding the importance of conservation and so on.

Two Ornithofestival was organized in the areas of Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato, with an emphasis on the need to protect Mostarsko blato and strengthen the protection in Hutovo blato by developing a new touristic program. As part of the Ornithofestival, an exhibition was set up, showing the values of Mostarsko blato as well as threats and pressures on its habitats and species.

All activities were presented to the public in radio shows, portals and newspapers. News and short articles of project activities were disseminated via web sites and Facebook pages of project leader and partner organizations.

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

The good cooperation with Public Institution Hutovo blato Nature Park and its rangers has continued, as well as with hunting organization "Galeb". The collaboration with the local community of Mostarsko blato (schools, hunting associations) has been established.

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

The positive unexpected impact was the reaction of the Hunting Association of Herzeg-Bosnia, and NGOs from the area of Mostar, who were very enthusiastic to engage in preventing of poaching and protection of biodiversity through joint cooperation and actions.

A positive impact is also the reaction and willingness of the school from Mostarsko blato and its employees for co-operation and joint activities.

The lack of co-operation with the power company is highlighted as a negative impact.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

(as stated in the approved proposal)

List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

Component 1 Monitoring of birds and poaching in Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato

1.1.

There will be a total of 40-45 days (8-10 hours per day) team visits per site in 13 months or 2-3 team visit monthly per site. In other days, two 100% employed persons will perform routine control (2-3 hours per day). Monthly reports with lists of recorded bird species and their abundance, and also situation of poaching (the number of registered poachers, gunshots, bullets) will be regularly submitted.

1.2.

Creating protocol with instructions of methodology and points for monitoring of birds and poaching in Mostarsko blato

1.3.

Final report of situation of birds and bird crime on Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato. Report will include list of registered birds, seasonal distribution and max-min number of registered specimens. The report will also include analysis of poaching, important pressures and recommendations for continuing work on monitoring.

Component 2. The efficiency of the ranger service of Hutovo blato Nature Park

2.1.

The workshop for rangers of Hutovo blato will be organized and after the workshop the list of participants, agenda, pictures, and presentations for rangers workshop in Hutovo blato will be available.

2.2.

List of needs: equipment and repairs necessary for the monitoring in Hutovo blato

Component 3.The acceptance of Hutovo blato Nature Park and Mostarsko blato and its natural values by the local communities

3.1.

The workshop for hunters from the region of Mostarsko blato will be organized and after the workshop the list of participants, agenda, pictures, and presentations for rangers workshop in Hutovo blato will be available.

3.2.

Six workshops for schoolchildren from the region of Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato will be organized. After the workshop the list of participants, agenda, pictures, presentations and materials for students and children will be available.

3.3.

After organizing Ornithofestival in Čapljina I Široki Brijeg, list of participants, agenda, pictures, presentations, materials of Ornithofestival will be available

3.4.

Create exhibiton about Mostarsko blato for promotion its conservation of the natural values.

Component 4. Media promotion and project evaluation

4.1.

Interviews for TV, radio, web portals and newspapers.

News and short articles of project activities will be disseminated via web sites and Facebook pages of leader of project and partner organizations.

4.2.

METT 1 and CSTT questionnaires submitted regularly to CEPF

4.3.

Regular reports (technical and financial reports) from EuroNatur to Naše ptice forwarded to CEPF

8. Describe the results from Component 1 and each product/deliverable

Component 1. Monitoring of birds and poaching in Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato

The work on monitoring of birds and poaching in Hutovo blato, based on protocol which was developed as a part of Agreement of Cooperation, was continued. The protocol of monitoring birds and poaching at Mostarsko blato was developed, based on early experience and situation in Hutovo blato. The pressure of the hydropower project to control water and electricity production has been significantly affected the bird fauna of this area for years, degrading habitats and threatening the disappearance of some animal species. The monitoring of the amount of water in seasonally flooded meadows as well as the length of birds staying in this region, and the general impact of water scarcity on habitats and species was performed.

1.1. (There will be a total of 40-45 days (8-10 hours per day) team visits per site in 13 months or 2-3 team visit monthly per site. In other days, two 100% employed persons will perform routine control (2-3 hours per day). Monthly reports with lists of recorded bird species and their abundance, and also situation of poaching (the number of registered poachers, gunshots, bullets) will be regularly submitted)

A total of 84 team visits were performed. The teams consisted of the Rangers of Hutovo blato Nature Park, members of hunting associations from the Čapljina (Hunting Association Galeb) and Široki Brijeg (Hunting Association Jarebica), members of Lijepa Naša NGO from Čapljina, members of Ornithological Society Naše ptice and staff engaged in the project. There were approximately 3 visits to each area per month (two for monitoring birds and one for monitoring the illegal hunting). Every team consisted of 3-4 members. The visit included a full-day stay on site, after which the report was made. The field reports were later submitted as a part of the final report. In addition to team visits, the staff engaged in the project spent 2-3 hours of check-outs in other days, with the aim of tracking incident situations (increased number of poachers, significant increase or decrease in bird numbers, etc.).



1.2.

protocol with instructions of methodology and points for monitoring of birds and poaching in Mostarsko blato)

(Creating

The protocol of monitoring birds and poaching at Mostarsko blato was developed, based on early experience and situation in Hutovo blato. Seven observation points were determined in

Mostarsko blato. The counting and mapping method was carried out by combining the methods of line transect and point counts. The information about species and individuals were recorded at each point, and the eventual changes in habitat were noted. The activities of poaching and other forms of disturbing birds have been recorded as well. The monitoring was performed three times per month, and more often during the hunting season and spring and autumn migration. The protocol was submitted as the Appendix to the report.

1.3. (Final report of situation of birds and bird crime on Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato. Report will include list of registered birds, seasonal distribution and max-min number of registered specimens. The report will also include analysis of poaching, important pressures and recommendations for continuing work on monitoring)

The results of the monitoring showed that the illegal hunting activities in Hutovo blato are reduced, but still present. The monitoring was performed for the first time in Mostarsko blato, and it was found that the illegal hunting is also present, but to a lesser extent than in Hutovo blato, probably due to the smaller number of waterbirds (eg ducks) in this karts polje. Regarding the biodiversity, both areas show a very high degree. Hutovo blato is particularly important for birds during wintering, and an increase in the number of birds has been recorded in relation to the period when the monitoring was not regularly performed. In Mostarsko blato, most birds were recorded during the migration, but it is also important to mention the possible breeding activity of Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*). The first results of bird monitoring indicate that Mostarsko blato can be nominated for an IBA. It is necessary to continue the monitoring activities, and it is planned to, at the end of the project, upload all data gathered during the team visits to observado.org.

The report on monitoring of birds and illegal hunting is attached to the final report.

9. Repeat point 8 above for each Component in your approved proposal

Component 2. The efficiency of the ranger service of Hutovo blato Nature Park

Within this component, a workshop with the aim of strengthening the ranger service of Hutovo blato Nature park was organized. During the workshop, a list of needed equipment, which was subsequently purchased, was made.

2.1. (The workshop for rangers of Hutovo blato will be organized and after the workshop the list of participants, agenda, pictures, and presentations for rangers workshop in Hutovo blato will be available)

The workshop for rangers was organized on August 4, 2016 in Hutovo blato. There were 20 participants, including the members of hunting associations from Čapljina (Hunting Association Galeb), Široki Brijeg (Hunting Association Mosor), Ljubuški (Hunting Association Kravica) and Stolac (Hunting Association Jarebica), representatives of the Hunting Council of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, representatives of the police administration from Čapljina, representatives of the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Environmental Protection of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton and non-governmental organizations from Čapljina and Sarajevo. After the workshop, the participants filled the questionnaires, which are, along with the agenda and list of participants, attached to the report.



2.2. (List of needs: equipment and repairs necessary for the monitoring in Hutovo blato)
The camera, field clothes and footwear were purchased for the rangers of Hutovo blato.



Component 3. The acceptance of Hutovo blato Nature Park and Mostarsko blato and its natural values by the local communities

This component included a series of workshops, surveys and public events involving schools, hunting associations and members of local communities from the area of Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato and the surrounding areas.

3.1. (The workshop for hunters from the region of Mostarsko blato will be organized and after the workshop the list of participants, agenda, pictures, and presentations for rangers workshop in Hutovo blato will be available)

The workshop for hunters was organized on 19.09.2016 in Široki Brijeg. There were 20 participants, including the members of hunting societies from Čapljina (Hunting Association Galeb) and Široki Brijeg (Hunting Association Mosor), representatives of Hunting federation of Herceg Bosna and non-governmental organizations from Čapljina and Sarajevo. A survey of participants was conducted, and showed that it is necessary to protect Mostarsko blato and strengthen the cooperation between Ornithological Society Naše ptice and hunting organizations towards this goal. At the end of the workshop, the cooperation on the training of hunters was agreed, which initially resulted in an article on endangered bird species published in the magazine of the hunting federation of Herceg Bosna

The agenda, list of participants and questionnaires are attached to the report.



3.2. (Six workshops for schoolchildren from the region of Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato will be organized. After the workshop the list of participants, agenda, pictures, presentations and materials for students and children will be available)

Six workshops were organized for three schools from the area Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato. 297 students aged 9-14 attended the workshops and events. The workshops were organized in schools and on the field, in Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato. The educational materials were developed to be used during the workshops, and the awards for competitions and quizzes for students were prepared. During the field workshops, the transport, food and refreshments for students were provided, as well as promotional materials and boat rides on Hutovo blato. The workshops were organized on internationally important dates (World Wetlands day, World Migrations Day) Two educational tables were made and set up in school yards.



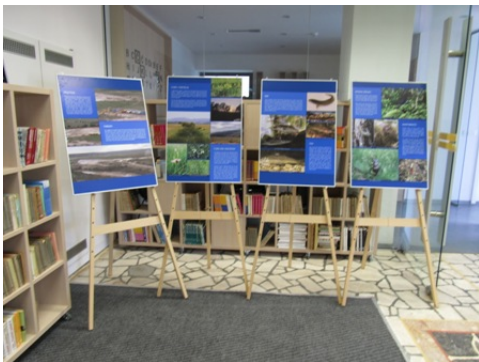
3.3. (After organizing Ornithofestival in Čapljina I Široki Brijeg, list of participants, agenda, pictures, presentations, materials of Ornithofestival will be available)

The 5th Ornithofestival was organized in Čapljina on 7-9 October 2016. There were 39 participants. In the professional part, there were 19 presentations. In addition to the professional part, the participants visited Hutovo blato and ornithological collection in Metković. The 6th Ornithofestival was organized in Široki Brijeg and Grude on 16-18 May 2017. There were 28 participants and 20 presentations. In addition to the presentations, the Ornithofestival included the tour of Mostarsko blato, opening of the exhibition in Široki Brijeg and a theater play for the children. The lists of participants, posters, books of abstracts with agendas and pictures are given in the attachment of the report.



3.4. (Create exhibition about Mostarsko blato for promotion its conservation of the natural values)

The exhibition on Mostarsko blato was opened on 16 May 2017, as an introduction to the 6th Ornithofestival. Through 9 panels, the exhibition presented the values and potentials of Mostarsko blato, but also the most important threats for this area. The opening of the exhibition was attended by about 100 people, including the participants of the Ornithofestival, students and local residents. The leaflet on the exhibition was printed and distributed. The photos from the opening of the exhibition and the leaflet are attached to the report.



Component 4. Media promotion and project evaluation

4.1. (Interviews for TV, radio, web portals and newspapers. News and short articles of project activities will be disseminated via web sites and Facebook pages of leader of project and partner organizations)

All of project activities were disseminated via web sites and Facebook pages of project leader and partner organizations. In addition, some of the actions were followed by local radio (2 shows and interviews). There were about 15 articles in newspapers and web portals. The links to some of the articles are attached.

<http://www.eulijepanasa.ba/5-ornitoloski-festival/>

<http://www.pzpzp.rs/sr/aktuelnosti/item/443-ucisce-pzpzp-na-ornitofestivalu-u-capl-ini-bosna-i-hercegovina-7-9-oktobar-2016.html>

<http://www.bhrt.ba/ekonomija/okolis/obiljezava-se-svjetski-dan-ptica-selica/>

<https://www.vecernji.ba/vijesti/obiljezili-dan-ptica-selica-1169990>

<http://www.bljesak.info/rubrika/lifestyle/clanak/u-hutovom-blatu-obiljezen-svjetski-dan-ptica-selica/197980>

http://www.lovackisavez-hb.ba/novosti_024.asp

4.2. (METT 1 and CSTT questionnaires submitted regularly to CEPF)

After completion of project its send to CEPF.

4.3. (Regular reports (technical and financial reports) from EuroNatur to Naše ptice forwarded to CEPF)

During the project and after its completion, all technical and financial reports were sent to CEPF electronically and via the online form.

10. If you did not complete any component or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?

All components have been fully realized.

In relation to the originally planned, and with the permission of CEPF and the reallocation of the budget, the following activities were additionally realized: the organization of the 6th Ornitofestival, the exhibition on Mostarsko blato, the event on the World Migratory Bird Day and the development of the questionnaire for the local community. The ornithofestival, exhibition and the event are described in section 9, components 3 and 4.

A questionnaire was made for the local community of Mostarsko blato. The questions were related to: land use, needs of the local population, understanding the importance of conservation and so on. The questionnaire was filled by 100 local residents. The survey showed that it is necessary to involve the local community in the activities planned to be performed in the area of Mostarsko blato and work on a joint action to protect this area.

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

- A protocol for monitoring birds and poaching in the area of Mostarsko blato was developed.
- The report of results of monitoring in both areas for the period April 2016-May 2017 was made.

- 100 copies of educational material for workshops with pupils were made
- Two educational boards for schools were created
- 300 informational leaflets about Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato were created and printed.
- An exhibition on the values of Mostarsko blato was prepared and set up. Also, 300 informative leaflets for the exhibition were printed.
- 150 t-shirts with logos were produced before the events.
- Surveys of local community is make



The protocol, field report, surveys, leaflets and pictures are given as the annexes to the report

Benefits to Communities

12. Please describe the communities that have benefited from CEPF support

Please report on the size and characteristics of communities and the benefits that they have received, as a result of CEPF investment. Please provide information for all communities that have benefited **from project start to project completion**.

Community Name	Community Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit											
	Subsistence economy	Small landowners	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*	Size of Community				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 knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services
								50-250 people	251-500 people	501-1,000 people	Over 1,001 people									
Mostarsko blato							+							+						+
Hutovo blato							+							+						+

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

The communities in these two areas are a combination of urban communities and small fruit and vegetable growers and livestock farmers.

Lessons Learned

13. Describe any lessons learned related to organizational development and capacity building.

It is necessary to enable the inclusion of more volunteers in projects and to plan resources for their engagement.

Also, it is more useful to have the project staff employed by Naše ptice or other partner organization than involved as the external collaborators. This strengthens the capacities of the organizations and provides opportunities for connecting multiple projects, and engagement within them.

It is particularly necessary to strengthen the capacity for better relations with the media.

14. Describe any lessons learned related to project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

It is necessary to do a better planning of the budget items, in order to avoid transferring funds from one item to another.

It is particularly important to do better planning of expenditure of funds for fuel (planned mileage and number of field dates).

It is important to perform a better analysis of the relationships in the local community and political relations that may affect the course of the project (e.g. the people in the governmental organizations which we have formed an agreement with may change their work position after the local elections).

15. Describe any lesson learned related to project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

It is necessary to improve networking with other organizations which allows for easier implementation of projects and better access to information.

The involvement of local communities and organizations in concrete actions has a significantly greater effect than just presenting our results to them.

The inefficient administrative system and the bad situation in the protected areas (in the organizations that run them) is an aggravating factor for the implementation of certain actions (permits, activities in the specific area, etc.).

16. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

More work needs to be done on raising the awareness of the local community about the natural and cultural values of Hutovo blato and Mostarsko blato, but also on directly involving them in the conservation actions.

Mostarsko blato is an extremely important area, but because of the planned activities it can be destroyed in the near future, so an urgent intervention is needed in proclaiming the protection of this area.

Sustainability / Replication

17. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated

The biggest challenge for the project is the difficult situation within the Public Enterprise Nature Park Hutovo blato where it is necessary to solve a sustainable financing system of work.

On the other side, Elektroprivreda HZ's efforts to establish water control in Mostarsko blato (channel system construction) could lead to degradation of the habitat and disappearance of many species.

18. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability

Setting up an exhibition about Mostarsko blato and organization of the 6th Ornithofestival in the region of Mostarsko blato were not originally planned.

These activities together with other activities on the project in synergy with other projects represent the basis of the program for the designation of the Mostarsko blato as an IBA and the proposal of this area for protection.

The special significance of the realized activities is reflected in raising awareness of the local community and the competent structures (ministries).

Safeguards

19. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social and environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered

The monitoring results in the area of Mostarsko blato together with the results of other projects that will be executed will soon result in submitting the application for inclusion of this area on the IBA list, which will also initiate the process of advocating the protection of this area and the development of its management plan.

Additional Funding

20. Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
EuroNatur	A	5025,00 \$	This budget was used for field monitoring on Hutovo and Mostarsko blato
Federal ministry of culture	A	8750,43 \$	Financing of 5 Ornithofestival
Ministry of culture Herzegovina-Neretva canton	A	1166,62 \$	Financing of 6 Ornithofestival

** Categorize the type of funding as:*

- A Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this 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 funded project)*
- C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

It is necessary to continue the project in the form of a new phase that would specifically focus on the area of Mostarsko blato and the need for it to be declared a protected area. Also, the next phase should be more committed to the infrastructure for the development of tourism based on birdwatching, as well as activities on stronger involvement of local communities in a given process.

Special attention must be paid to work with fishermen doing illegal killing of birds (eg. Great Cormorant).

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:

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