

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

*Instructions to grantees: please complete all fields, and respond to all questions, below.*

<b>Organization Legal Name</b>	<i>Noé Conservation</i>
<b>Project Title</b>	Conservation of Pelicans, a Key Biodiversity Species of Skadar Lake
<b>CEPF GEM No.</b>	63087
<b>Date of Report</b>	29.03.2017.

### **CEPF Hotspot:**

Skadar Lake / Montenegro / South Western Balkans Corridor: - Key priority zone No. 41 for CEPF investment in the hotspot of the Mediterranean basin (Table 25, CEPF ecosystem profile) - Key priority area No. 17 for the strategic direction 3 (Table 28, CEPF ecosystem profile).

### **Strategic Direction:**

Strategic Direction 3. Improvement of the conservation and protection status of 44 priority key (3.1 ; 3.2 et 3.3) / Skadar Lake, Montenegro – Key zone No. 17 (Table No. 28, CEPF ecosystem profile).

### **Grant Amount:**

303 581 USD

### **Project Dates:**

Start date: 2013/7/1

End date: 2017/3/31

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

Noe Conservation – Noé is the grantee and is responsible for the overall coordination and the project implementation.

Tour du Valat – it provided expert advice and support on pelican research and monitoring practices; nesting infrastructure; anthropogenic impact and biodiversity inventories. In 2014 Tour du Valat carried out the Conservation Expertise specifically looking at key biodiversity species to assess the environmental impacts of the potential construction of a boat pathway around the Pelican colony.

EuroNatur – it provided advice and support on activities related to the development of ecotourism of the area, as well as development of tourist infrastructure at Podhum. It prepared Feasibility Study on Pelican villages for Montenegro. Provided support on issues related to human impact on the pelican colony and advice on construction of nesting platforms.

Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro/National Park Skadar Lake - managing authority of the NP Skadar Lake. The NPSL has been involved in all the activities taking place on Skadar Lake especially promotion; protection of the pelican colony; field activities related to the setting of the infrastructures for the nesting of pelicans, tourist infrastructure, organization of events. Other activities such as filming in Skadar Lake were supported via logistic, transport and materials by the Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro/National Park Skadar Lake .

Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro (CZIP) – CZIP has been responsible for the monitoring of pelican colony and illegal activities from Hum hill with the involvement of volunteers; organization of outdoor lectures for school children; participation to events; participation to the planning and the setting of infrastructure for pelican nesting and protection; CZIP has been the lead partner for the preparation of Action Plan for Dalmatian pelican for Montenegro.

Natural History Museum (NHM) – NHM has been responsible for the monitoring from water surface; NHM established and maintained videomonitoring on nesting rafts; expert support and advice on infrastructure for nesting of pelicans and protection of the colony; support and advice on the human impact on the pelican colony; provided training for rangers on the use of GPS devices and new patrol sheets.

Association for Protection of Aquatic Wildlife in Albania (APAWA) - involved in preparation of the Short Management Plan for Skadar/Shkodra Lake and informational leaflet for Panceva oka/responsible pelican watching. Participated to meetings and support with communication with the local communities around Skadar Lake.

Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania (INCA) - INCA took the partnership role instead of APAWA in 2015. Organized outdoor lectures for school children at Skodra Lake (Albania); provided support on the preparation of Action Plan for Dalmatian Pelican for Montenegro, based on the Action Plan prepared in Albania; participated to local events and facilitated communication with local communities.

Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux du Maroc (GREPOM) – The GREPOM has been involved in the component 5 of the project, for the conservation of the Bald Ibis. They participated to an exchange visit in Montenegro, in order to capitalize on the model of partnership developed in Montenegro. They coordinated with Noé the inventories and the mapping of the habitats within and at the periphery of the Souss-Massa National Park in Morocco and the ones used by the Bald Ibis, and they organized with Noé a workshop to present the results of these consultancies and to think on a global project for the conservation of the Bold Ibis.

Parc National de Souss-Massa (PNSM) – The PNSM was not a sub-grantee, but they participated to the consultancies through the communication of data and their participation to the validation committee of the consultancies.

## **Conservation Impacts**

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

Project " Conservation of Pelicans, a Key Biodiversity Species of Skadar Lake" established a new protection area inside "the Special nature Reserve Panceva oka" which previously did not have defined borders. The new protected area is now set as a pelican breeding area and, as such, recognized and protected by the managing authority, Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro. Long term structures have formed around protection and valorization of the area, and tourist development of local communities adjacent to it - Ranger station, Info center, festival "Malesija my home". The development of sustainable tourism based on a responsible pelican watching, and its first step, proclamation of first Pelican village in Malesija, is recognized in the Management plan for National Park Skadar Lake and has been accepted by the management authority of the National Park.

Due to the project, the general public is now aware of the big success in the recovery of the pelican population, record numbers of pelicans and significant breeding success, in the pelican colony at Skadar Lake. The general public is now interested in its future and safety. This interest, together with education done via media, outdoor lectures and door to door visits to local community, have improved the protection of newly protected area and the pelican colony. There is a significant drop in the number of illegal activities inside the pelican breeding area and increased cooperation with the fishermen.

Dalmatian pelican has become an ambassador for Skadar Lake, and as its symbol, has provided better understanding of conservation needs of the ecosystem.

### **3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project**

The protection of Special nature Reserve Panceva oka, biological heart of Skadar Lake, has been significantly improved. Pelican population has recovered and increased with record numbers of individuals and great breeding success. Safe nesting of Dalmatian pelican is ensured long-term. Monitoring practices have been improved and there are clear roles and cooperation established between project partners - representatives of governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Local community has been recognized as an important stakeholder and beneficiary in the development of sustainable tourism at Skadar Lake. Tourist infrastructure - Info center, camp site, info trail, parking spot, boat channel - have been set and provide a big step towards the development of tourism. Development of tourism in the area will continue based on the Pelican village concept that support local traditional and nature friendly way of life.

The overall results in Montenegro with the colony of Dalmatian Pelican are based on a partnership between Noé and its partners. This model, developed and improved during the implementation of the project, leads Noé, on a request of the CEPF, to share its experience and expertise with Moroccan stakeholders of the conservation of the Bald Ibis. It strengthens the community of conservationist of the Bald Ibis in Morocco, and gives a shared baseline for the creation of a global project of conservation of this specie based on the inventories and mapping of all the habitats in and around the Souss-Massa National Park.

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

*List each long-term impact from Grant Writer proposal*

Effective management of Skadar Lake National Park, a wetland of international importance, with

- (i) Healthy populations of key biodiversity species, especially Dalmatian Pelicans;
- (ii) Greater appropriation by local stakeholders of their natural heritage;
- (iii) Capacitated local institutions.

#### **4. Actual progress toward long-term impacts at completion**

(i) Population of Dalmatian pelican has been significantly increased. At the end year of the project population hold the record size in last 30 years, and record number of chick is also expected. By the data provided by the Natural history Museum, estimated maximum of the Dalmatian pelican population at the beginning of the project, in 2013, was around 55 individuals, while for 2017 this number is expected to be 150 - 170 or even bigger. This indicated that the pelican population has increased 3 times in the duration of the project. Conditions, such as safe nesting places and decrease of disturbance to the pelican colony, if maintained, will ensure the stability of these results.

(ii) With the development of Pelican village concept, tourist infrastructure at Podhum, and informational and educational activities, there is now a better understanding of the importance of the healthy ecosystem of Skadar Lake and its indicator, Dalmatian pelican. Local community, mainly fishermen, is interested and eager to develop sustainable tourism based on a responsible pelican watching, and recognizes the pelican as a matter of their local pride.

(iii) Project helped to recognize the main stakeholders for the conservation of Skadar Lake and Dalmatian pelican and created lasting cooperation between project partners. Project partners were composed of governmental and nongovernmental organizations that did not have a good cooperation in the past, and were lacking open data sharing. Now there is an exchange of data, knowledge and experience and well as defined division of work between the partners. This cooperation is extending over the duration of the project. During the project partners were participating to study visits and improved their knowledge and work methodology based on the best practice examples of leading experts in pelican and wetland protection. To strengthen their capacity, the project provides also equipment adapted and specific to the different tasks needed for conserving and protecting the colony of the Dalmatian Pelican, such as boat, boat engine, equipment for rangers, binoculars, videomonitoring etc.

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

*List each short-term impact from Grant Writer proposal*

Four short-term impacts are expected (indicators):

1. Enhanced scientific knowledge on the wetland and its emblematic species for improved cross border management practices (Pelican database, videos on breeding and nesting sites, publication and dissemination of data and management plans, number of participants to training workshop and exchange visit to Prespa).

2. Increased numbers of Dalmatian Pelicans and improved effectiveness of the management (trained rangers and representatives of local institutions, increased number of Pelican nests and survival rate, effective visible zonation, number of patrols).

3. Improved local development and sustainable use of natural resources (feasibility study for the establishment of a “Pelican-villages” network, two nature trails developed, one Information Center upgraded) and ensured compatibility with the conservation of Dalmatian Pelicans (decreasing number of infringements to zonation during patrols).

4. Integration of species-specific issues within local and national policies (proposed revisions for the Park Management Plan 2016-2021 and the Nature Reserve Management Plan, and revised Pelican National Action Plan for Montenegro) and within local communities concerns (number of volunteers contributing to monitoring, dissemination of leaflets, publications of three newsletters, number of visitors to the Information Center)

## **5. Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion**

1. There is a steady and stable gathering of data about Dalmatian pelican, with approved methodology, for the last four years. This data is compiled in the Med Waterbird database. This practice will continue. Activities related to pelican protection, monitoring and research were set and completed based on best practices discussed during exchange visits at Kerkini, Prespa and Divjaka Karavasta, together with leading experts of this field. A connection is established between project partners, but also colleagues from Greece and Albania, with sharing of data directly, via database or Pelecanus group. Action Plans for Dalmatian pelican, done in Montenegro and Albania, are compatible.

2. Pelican population in Skadar Lake has increased three times since the beginning of the project. Rangers have been equipped and trained and have a new Ranger station available to provide fast reaction for the protection of the colony. There is a specific patrol for the protection of pelican colony active 24/7. Pelicans have permanent solution for safe nesting - nesting rafts located in new protected area delimited with zonation.

3. Feasibility study for the establishment of a “Pelican-villages” network is finished. Info Center, camp spot, parking spot, boat channel, and educational trail with 6 info tables are established under Hum hill. This is the base for the development of new sustainable tourist offer of local community - Malesija. Fishermen of Podhum are interested to work with Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro with the establishment of new tourist activities based on a responsible pelican watching. Fishing association provides information and support that helps decrease the human disturbance to the pelican colony. Number of disturbances during night has been decreased (from several dozen incidents during one month to about a dozen incidents during year) and there is absence of disturbance during day.

4. New Five year Management plan for National Park Skadar Lake, 2016-2021, has project activities incorporated - monitoring and protection of pelican colony, development of sustainable tourism and Pelican village in Malesija. Action Plan for Dalmatian pelican for Montenegro is being developed by ornithologist from Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro, Natural History Museum and Center for Protection and Research of Birds. INCA

and BirdLife International will revise this document. Leaflet with information about the special Reserve Panceva oka, zonation and responsible pelican watching was distributed on two occasions and is available at the Info center under Hum hill. Info center is open to visitors and has permanently employed staff working 8 hours, 5 days a week. Other materials are made as electronic version and are distributed via e-mail such as newsletter disseminated through emails and downloading in all the partners' websites since 2014.

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

Biggest success of the project is the increase in pelican population and ensuring conditions that will support this colony in the future. This is established not only through the infrastructure for nesting and the protection of the colony, but also through the connections created between project partners and their joint work.

Biggest challenge is ensuring sustainability for the safe nesting of the pelican colony. Pelicans are management dependant species and just one year of lack of protection can cause a sharp decrease in the population. Sustainability of pelican protection is greatly dependant on the protection provided by the local community. In order to create the connection between economical benefit of fishermen and pelicans, more time, work and investment is needed. The project worked hard on creating a clear path to development of sustainable tourism, but the project duration was too short to completely develop the sustainable tourist offer up to its implementation.

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

In 2016 Ministry of Sustainable development and Tourism presented the draft of Special Spatial Plan for National Park Skadar Lake. This plan had many issues in relation to the local community of Malesija including prohibition of fishing, designating villages as tourist villages but prohibiting construction, and poor explanation of borders of the National Park that was seen as taking of the private land from the locals. Local community protested against and blocked the organization of the festival "Malesija my home". In time small group of locals carried these protests towards the project stating their vision of the development of Podhum that included the construction of a hotel and bar. This group has occasionally organized protests during visits to Podhum. The project had many meetings with this group and provided advice of the legal ways of stating their demands to the institutions that are responsible for dealing with such demands. However the group remains disorganized and is not recognized by the City Municipality of Tuzi as representatives of the local community. Even though these incidents have caused problems during the realization of some activities, it is important for such matters to be resolved under the full attention of project partners and stakeholders. These issues were expected, especially with the development of sustainable tourist offer for Podhum, and need to be resolved inside the local community and with the municipality. This recent involvement of the local community in the plans for the development of Podhum, even the ones that are not aimed towards sustainable tourism, show that the locals are engaged and understand the importance of the development of the area. We expect some difficulties in the future plans to develop eco-tourism in Malesija, but the whole community is now interested and involved in the matter which is a step in the right direction.

## **Project Components and Products/Deliverables**

### **Component 1 (as stated in the approved proposal)**

*List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer*

#### **Component 1.**

Improved Dalmatian Pelican research and monitoring practices.

- 1.1. Dalmatian Pelican database for Skadar Lake.
- 1.2. Live videos and pictures on breeding and nesting sites.
- 1.3. Trained Albanian and Montenegrin rangers and representatives of local institutions on best monitoring and research practices.

#### **Component 2.**

Efforts provided to contribute to the conservation of Dalmatian Pelicans and to support the management authorities.

- 2.1. Effective and non-intrusive dissuasive patrolling.
- 2.2. Decreasing number of infringements to zonation (fewer incidents).
- 2.3. Increased number of Pelican nests and survival rate.
- 2.4. Improved management and conservation tools (recommendations for best way to channel movements away from the colony and minimize environmental impacts during construction and maintenance, Process Framework for Involuntary Resettlement safeguard with related action plan, updates for the Park Management Plan 2016-2021, amendments to the Nature Reserve Management Plan, revised Pelican National Action Plan for Montenegro).
- 2.5. Albanian and Montenegrin institutions' representatives familiarized with existing Management Plans and best transboundary wetland management and pelican conservation practices.

#### **Component 3.**

Natural heritage of Skadar Lake promoted via communication campaigns and environmental education.

- 3.1. General public (volunteers, local children, communities, stakeholders and tourists) aware of the ecology and major threats for Dalmatian Pelicans, and of the Lake's biodiversity, ecosystem services and hydrological processes.
- 3.2. Local fishermen/users familiarized with best practices to reduce disturbance especially within the buffer zone.
- 3.3. One Information Center upgraded and used for environmental education awareness.
- 3.4. Partners, stakeholders and the general public familiar with the project outcomes thanks to internet visibility (website, live videos, e-newsletters).

#### **Component 4.**

"Pelican-friendly" tourism activities investigated and promoted

- 4.1. Recommendations for the establishment of a "Pelican-villages" network.
- 4.2. Two nature trails attracting tourists built.

#### **Component 5.**

Capitalization on the model of this program with Moroccan stakeholders regarding the conservation of the Bald Ibis

5.1. Nesting site of the Bald Ibis maintained

5.2. Mapping of the Souss-Massa National Park including habitats and nesting sites for the Bald Ibis

5.3. Capitalization on the current program after exchanges between Noé and its Montenegrin partners and the Moroccan stakeholders

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

### **Component 1.**

Improved Dalmatian Pelican research and monitoring practices.

1.1. Med Waterbird Database was further developed to include input of data for Dalmatian pelican. Data is collected by the local project partners and is added to the database each year from the begging of the project.

1.2. Video monitoring set on nesting rafts has day and night camera providing 24h of real time direct link to partners. By using the video monitoring it is possible to film or take photos of the colony. Video monitoring is used both for monitoring of the colony but also as an early warning to disturbance of the colony. The video monitoring is functioning thanks to solar panels, and the video is sent with a cellphone permanently turned on and connected to the mobile network.

1.3. Rangers have been trained on use of equipment such as radio station and GPS devices in order to improve their work on the field. Natural History Museum and Center for Protection and Research of Birds have created monitoring protocols based on the expert advice from Tour du Valat and the Society of Protection of Prespa in Greece. Ornithologist from Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro is also involved in the monitoring from water surface and is trained with the latest monitoring protocol. Each year the project organized an exchange visit enabled the partners to identify the best practices for monitoring according the situation of the Dalmatian Pelicans in Skadar Lake.

### **Component 2.**

Efforts provided to contribute to the conservation of Dalmatian Pelicans and to support the management authorities.

2.1. A special patrol is established for the protection of the pelican colony and is active 24/7. Rangers have been equipped with GPS devices, binoculars, photo cameras, uniforms, equipment for night patrols and have fast boat engine and fuel rations provided by the project. Patrol is now situated at the Ranger station/Info center at Podhum so it can reach the pelican colony in 10 minutes instead of 2-3 hours (from Vranjina). Rangers are using boat channel to store the patrol boat. Ranger station is connected to the video monitoring overlooking the Lake access to Panceva oka (pelican nesting area) and all activity there is filmed. In cases of increased pressure on the pelican colony, rangers form combine patrols with border police.

2.2. Day disturbance to the pelican colony is completely prevented, while night disturbance is significantly decreased. In 2016 and 2017, the project faced disturbance at night from smugglers and illegal fishermen. It seems to be related to religious celebrations when the meat is forbidden while it is accepted to eat fishes, it then brings a lot of illegal fishermen because of the increase of the price of the carps.

2.3. Maximum number of pelicans has increased three times since the beginning of the project. By latest counts done by the Natural History Museum there is over 40 nests on the nesting rafts, and more nests are being constructed. As a comparison in 2003 there was just 7 nests, and in



2014, year with the record number of chicks - 48, there were 39 nests. In 2014 number of breeding pairs was the biggest - 49, however the preliminary results for 2017 shown that, at the end of the nesting season, there could be a new record.

2.4. In 2014 a workshop was held with local communities where it was agreed on a position of boat pathway, zonation and future steps on tourism development. Tour du Valat did a Study on different ways to construct and maintain these channels and their impact on environment. As the construction of the channels required special machinery that was not available in Montenegro, we used the GPS routes created together with the locals during the workshop, to propose a route through the zonation that would not affect the pelican colony. Process Framework for Involuntary Resettlement safeguard with related action plan was done for the zonation, boat pathway and support towards wardening. Project partners participated in amendments sent for the new Five year Management Plan 2016-2021. Some of the amendments were accepted and activities related to the protection of the pelican colony and development of sustainable tourism (Pelican village) were added to the Management plan. Action Plan for Dalmatian pelican is being prepared and is expected to be finished mid 2017.

2.5. A short version of the Management plan has been prepared, and it consists of data present in both old and the new Montenegrin Five year Management plan, and Management plan for Shkodra Lake - Albania. The document will be distributed via e-mail to relevant institutions.

### **Component 3.**

Natural heritage of Skadar Lake promoted via communication campaigns and environmental education.

3.1. In 2014 Center for Protection and Research of Birds organized outdoor lectures for schoolchildren in Montenegro, and in 2015 Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania organized the same activity in Albania. In 2016 "Pelican Day" was organized in Montenegro. These three activities included almost 300 children, all informed about Skadar Lake as an ecosystem, different plant and animal life, Dalmatian pelican and its biology, threats and conservation measures. Children enjoyed a day in nature where they could observe different species of birds, insects, plants etc. After the educational part of the events children were also involved in activities such as paper crafts, painting, birdwatching, watching videos from videomonitoring, reciting, singing.

Center for Protection and Research of Birds offers volunteers to accompany its staff during the monitoring from Hum hill. Every monitoring day includes at least one volunteer. During two occasions the project also distributed leaflets door to door in the local community of Podhum. Leaflets contained information of prohibitions in Special Nature Reserve Panceva oka, zonation and pelican colony and responsible pelican watching.

3.2. Fishing associations of Malesija, Vranjina and Krajina, and later fishing organization for the whole Skadar Lake, participated to workshops and meetings where special accent was given on avoiding disturbance to the pelican colony. Fishermen actively participated to the creation of the zonation perimeter and are regularly informed on the status of the pelican colony. Fishermen are "warned" each year once pelicans start building nests, lay eggs and when first chicks appear. These crucial periods are used both to inform them but also to notify on times when we need their support to prevent disturbance.

3.3. Ranger station/ Info Center at Podhum is active. It has electricity via solar panels and toilets and running water via storage of rainwater and water pump system. House is fully furnished and has an info table and display area, ranger room and meeting room with ornithological station. It is equipped with video monitoring displayed on laptop and LCD screen. There is a Swarovski scope that can be used for watching the colony from Hum hill, and it is heated via wooden stove.

At the info Center there are guides available for 8 hours, 5 days a week as part of the permanent staff. Informational materials are available to visitors in the display area.

3.4. During the project implementation period, main achievements of the project were present in local, regional and world media. Newspaper, TV shows, radio, web sites, social groups, web portals were mainly used. In addition, each year the project prepared a newsletter sent via e-mails and participated to the creation of 2 promo videos, "Skadar" by CEPF and The Living Med, and promotional video about the project funded by CEPF and prepared by LPO, BirdLife International and DOPPS. In 2017 Noé held a closing press conference for the project and it was published on dozen different media channels.

In general there is an increase in knowledge of the general public about the pelican colony. At the beginning of the project there was a common knowledge that Dalmatian pelican is present at Skadar Lake, in small numbers and it is a rarely seen by people. By the end of the project the common knowledge is that the number of pelican increased significantly and more and more people are reporting that they have seen them. Pelicans have become a common site for tourist boats going from Vranjina to Kornjaca, Moraca delta, Plavnica or Malo blato.

#### **Component 4.**

"Pelican-friendly" tourism activities investigated and promoted

4.1. EuroNature prepared the feasibility study on Pelican village. The study showed that this concept is applicable for Montenegro, and it was decided by the local community that the first pelican village should be Podhum. There are already ideas shared by the local community for the first projects as part of this concept. There is a great interest from the local community to proclaim the Pelican village and begin with first promotional and tourist activities.

4.2. As it was impossible to construct nature trails due to land ownership issues for Hum hill, we have discussed with the local community and project partners about other alternatives. As a result one camp spot is built under Hum hill with informational trail with 6 info tables. Across the camp spot one parking spot is established, and behind it a water channel for storing boats. In order to complete the construction, Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro prepared two projects funded by EuroNatur - "Restoration of the Ranger Station/Info Center at NP Skadar Lake", Ref. No. MNE-14-176-58 and GIZ - "Malesija my Home". By the GIZ project it is also planned to construct a observation point on Hum hill using the part of state land.

#### **Component 5.**

Capitalization on the model of this program with Moroccan stakeholders regarding the conservation of the Bald Ibis

5.1. It was originally planed to maintain the nesting sites of the Bald Ibis with alpinists. Unfortunately, due to a lack of reactivity and anticipation from GREPOM, the alpinists could not intervene and clean the cliffs because of the presence of the first birds of the breeding season.

5.2. Three consultancy have been conducted under the coordination of the Groupe de Recherche et de Protection des Oiseaux du Maroc and with the support of Noé: one on the inventory of all the habitats in the Souss-Massa National Park and its periphery, one on all the habitats used by the Bald Ibis, and a last one to make the mapping of all these habitats. The data gathered and the identification of these habitats will be used as a baseline for the future activities of conservation of the Bald Ibis and management of its habitats. These prior activities have been identified with all the relevant stakeholders (Noé, GREPOM, Haut Commissariat des Eaux et Forêts et de la Lutte Contre la Desertification, SEO and Regional Implementation Team of CEPF) during a workshop in Agadir in Morocco.

5.3. GREPOM attended to an exchange visit in Skadar Lake with Noé and all the Montenegrin partners of the project. It emphasized the model of partnership between all the partners in the project, how the project had been identified and constructed, and the role of each partner and especially the role of Noé in this inclusive partnership. The model emphasized has been then presented in Agadir during the workshop dedicated to the identification of the prior activities to implement in the perspective of a global project of conservation of the Bald Ibis.

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

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

In sub-component 4.1. the project could not construct the trail on Hum hill, and instead Noé used the available funds for other tourist infrastructure. However, the project did not completely abandon this idea. In 2014 a Memorandum of understanding has been prepared between Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro and Municipality of Podhum in which on one side it is agreed that the tourist infrastructure under Hum hill can be used by the local community for free, and on the other side local community will grant free passage to visitors to the trail on Hum hill. Thus, visitors can still use the old existing trail and observation points on the hill. This did not have any negative impact on the project.

In the sub-component 5.1. the project could not clean the nesting sites of the Bald Ibis. It didn't affect the overall impact of the project, the Bald Ibis are still present on the two only known locations of nests in the wild in Morocco.

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

The Leaflet prepared contains information on Special nature Reserve Panceva oka, rules for the reserve, information about the position and meaning of the zonation and information on how to watch pelicans responsibly. Leaflet was distributed in the local community on 2 occasions and is available to the visitors at Info Centre at Podhum.

Video monitoring is established on the nesting rafts for Dalmatian pelicans at Skadar Lake. Video monitoring has night and day camera and enables 24h streaming.

You can watch the colony using an application IVMS 4500.

User: pmcg

Password: pmcg2015

Code: Bruch1832



## Lessons Learned

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

The most important lesson is that organizational development and capacity building has to be done uniformly with all project partners. It is very important to understand the different levels of expertise and development of each project partner, but capacity building has to be done in a way that all partners can communicate with each other on the same level. The capacity building is strengthened by having experts that can easily and quickly provide knowledge and guidance for partners. For example, during the exchange visit in Prespa, expert team from the Society of Protection of Prespa in Greece provided guidance to develop a model for the monitoring protocols in order to improve the one used before. It resulted from this work a great cooperation between partners, motivation and joint work on developing unique protocol that is now used in Sakadar Lake but also in Albania and in Greece in Kerkini and in Prespa.

The capacity building has been successful also because of the involvement of a full-time coordinator for Noé in Montenegro. According all the Montenegrin partners, Noé, through its coordinator, has been the link between all the partners, and helped to smooth the relationships, and to strengthen the cooperation between all the partners.

The difficulties met in Morocco to work in a distance with GREPOM shows also the importance to have a coordinator based in the country of the project. In deed, most of the activities have been implemented with some delays in Morocco, and the administrative and financial closing of the sub-grant is still in process while the deadline of the project is passed.

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

The project design process benefited from the CEPF support. Thus, it enables a real consultation process between all the stakeholders, and then the identification of the clear role of each partner, and the clear responsibility in the implementation of the identified activities.

In the perspective of a second phase the project would like to develop, this process has been conducted once again in Karvasta during the last exchange visit in October 2016.

The design process of the project didn't sufficiently take into account the evolution of competencies of the civil society and local communities during the implementation of the project. It led Noé to readapt permanently the activities in order to include the stakeholders on the base of their competencies.

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

Each activity holds its importance but each activity has to be viewed as something that can be improved and should be improved in time. Situation and circumstances change as the project is developing and the project should always have the courage and vision to change the activities for the overall result and the sustainability of the program. All changes need to be discussed with partners and the final beneficiaries.

Local community has to be included in each activity and needs to feel like an active part of project implementation. With the local community included in each activity, it will start to view the project as its

own achieve and this will bring the lasting support to the program. Local community can also oppose to some activities, and this also has to be considered. Rejection of activities by the local community doesn't always means that they need to be changed but it signals that the project needs to involve them more and to more raise awareness.

The model of partnership developed needs a coordinator based near the partners to help them to prepare the activities, and adapt them, to remind the logical framework of the program and to be sure that all the activities are implemented to achieve results.

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

Good leading partner should not push partners to complete their obligations, but join them together so that they feel a personal obligation to do their part.

And, to gather the knowledge, the expertise, experts on a specie enables to identify and to determine the best solutions to face a threat on this specie. Work and cooperate altogether is better than alone even more with migratory birds.

#### **Sustainability / Replication**

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

Dalmatian pelican is a management dependant species. All activities: ensuring safe nesting place and prevention of disturbance on nesting and feeding grounds, have to be done every year with same quality. If there is just one year of increased disturbance to the nesting colony this can have big and lasting effect on breeding success of pelicans. During the project implementation Noé and its partners worked hard to tackle the existing problems and ensure the increase of the pelican population, but Noé also worked on training and providing equipment to rangers, education of locals, and motivating the partners and stakeholder to maintain the activities in future. There is great will by the partners to continue monitoring and protection of the pelican colony. The project has established infrastructure that will be maintained in the future - nesting rafts have a life of 35 years, and zonation did not suffer any damage so far. The project has gained interest of the local community to protect the pelicans and Panceva oka and trained and equipped rangers. There is a great concern for the safety of pelicans both by the partners and the general public and they react fast if there is any damage or disturbance to the colony. However, monitoring and protection require continuous funding and especially ranger patrols are dependent on available fuel. All educational work must be continuous, and events such as "Pelican day" need to be held every year.

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

#### **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**

At the project start there was a concern of limiting the movements and activities of the local community of Malesija - fishermen villages that were fishing mainly at Panceva oka (Skadar lake) the area where pelicans are nesting. This triggered Involuntary restriction safeguard and Noe prepared the Involuntary restriction document covering the placement of the zonation around the pelican colony and increased wardening activities that were part of the project activities. These activities were considered involuntary restrictions as they both included new or more stringent restrictions on natural resource use. However Panceva oka, area in which these activities are taking place, was already under the state protection as the Special Nature Reserve, which included prohibitions set by Law. Project was not introducing new prohibitions but strengthening the local legislation.

Zonation that was set around the pelican nesting site was planned together with the local community and has taken in to consideration the fishing routes used by the local community. Zonation position, parameter, and possible boat pathways that could be opened in the future, were all GPS mapped together with the local fishermen in August 2014. Wardening activities that were focused on pelican colony are supported by the local community which sees the presence of pelicans as their local pride. Eventual decrease of income made by fishing in the area will be mitigated via development of eco-tourism which should provide alternative sources of income directly based on the presence of the pelican colony. The concept of "Pelican village" was developed with EuroNatur in 2016 and local community has also taken steps towards development of tourist offer of the area - restoration of bee keeping, plans for land scenic routes and renovation of an old castle. Both of these ongoing activities will, in future, contribute to the increase of income for the local community and protection of the pelican colony.

Education was continuously done to ensure all fishermen are aware of the zonation and its meaning. Education went both ways as we listened to the local community for their ideas on future development. Currently local community has designated one NGO to protect their interests. NGO "Pelicans Malesija" is cooperating with Noé and is presenting their plans on the development of the area and protection of the colony. Noe will use the opportunity to cooperate with the local community through the NGO "Pelicans Malesija" in the areas that overlap the project goals.

The project Activity 3.3.2.2: Plan and build two nature trails on hill Hum with the creation of resting sites was replaced with the cleaning of the water channel that is used for ranger and fishing boats at Podhum, restoration of the Info center and Ranger station at Podhum and construction of camp site and parking spot under Hum hill. Construction done under Hum hill including the clearing of the channel required a permit issued by the Environmental Protection Agency. Description and plan for the activities, together with the Environmental Impact Assessment, was prepared by Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro and Noe Conservation. Request for Permit was prepared by the Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro. Based on the documentation prepared Environmental Protection Agency issued a permit for the construction.

Upon receiving the permit Noé also contacted the local community in order to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the use of the area after the construction. Local community of Podhum signed the MoU.

### 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**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
MAVA foundation	C	546 800 €	For conservation of Dalmatian Pelican in Greece in Kerkini, in Albania in Karvasta and in Montenegro in Skadar Lake
Lush	B	8 000€	1500€ directly used for the construction of raft in Montenegro and a platform in Karavasta
CMS	A	10 000€	Zonation of Panceva Oka
Fondation Botiaux Du Lac	C	12 100€	Mainly supporting activities in Kerkini in Greece

\* 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**

### 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](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:



- 22. Name:**  
Bjanka Praktljacic, Project coordinator  
Sébastien Pinchon, Head of the International Department
- 23. Organization:** Noe Conservation
- 24. Mailing address:**  
Bjanka Praktljacic, Slobodana Skerovica 26, 20 000 Podgorica, Montenegro  
Noé, 47 rue Clisson, 75013 Paris, France
- 25. Telephone number:**  
Bjanka Praktljacic: 0038267450884  
Sébastien Pinchon : + 33 6 87 49 24 76
- 26. E-mail address:**  
[bpraktljacic@noe.org](mailto:bpraktljacic@noe.org)  
[spinchon@noe.org](mailto:spinchon@noe.org)