



Short report on the actions taken following the Involuntary restrictions-Process Framework

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Introduction

Activities of the project “Conservation of Pelicans, a Key Biodiversity Species of Skadar Lake” 1.3.2.1: Investigate the need of the construction of boat pathways and trails around the buffer zone of Skadar lake Montenegro; 2.2.2.1: Define and materialize the zonation of the restricted area around the colony and 2.2.2.2: Develop a proper patrolling plan around the colony and implement regular patrolling are recognized as possible cause to **bring new or more stringent restrictions on natural resource use** for the local community. Involuntary restrictions – Process Framework was prepared and submitted to CEPF in 2014 and its measures to assist the affected persons were conducted from 2014 to 2016.

Short report on actions taken

In the document Involuntary restrictions – Process Framework 3 groups were recognized that can be possibly affected by the activities: fishermen, hunters and tourism workers. Hunters can be excluded as hunting is prohibited in the National Park Skadar Lake (NPSL) and all hunting activities are done outside its borders.

In order to prevent negative effect on the local community we followed the plan of participatory implementation of the activities together with the local community mainly focusing on the three affected groups.

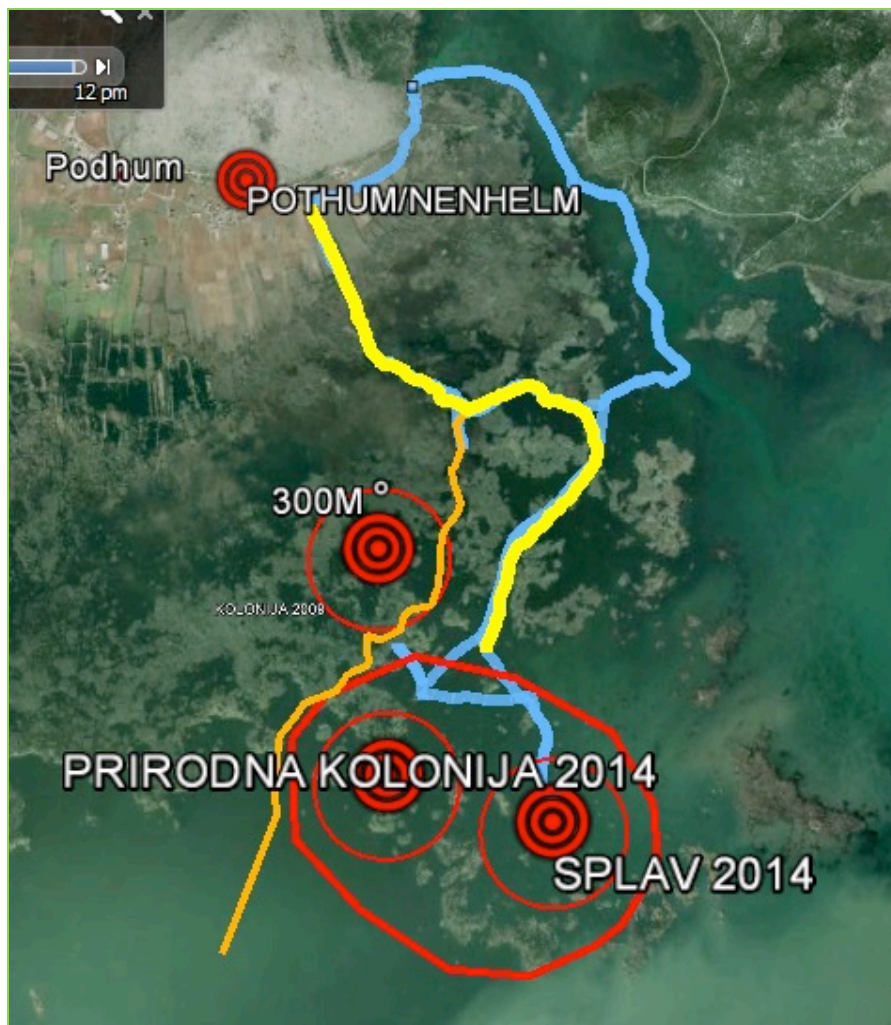
First step was to create a network of local people representing all three groups with fishermen being most dominant as they were mainly influenced by the activities. The group included locals from Malesija region as it contains villages adjacent to Special Reserve Panceva oka (main place of implementation of the activities) but also Municipality of Tuzi. Group was informed on the project activities and details were especially provided on the 3 activities that will mostly affect the area of the Special Reserve (SR) Panceva oka. They were offered to participate in each activity and provide comments and suggestions. From the early start group was in favor of bringing more organization to the SR Panceva oka in order to solve existing issues such as illegal fishing.

Implementation of the activities following the safeguard

Activity 1.3.2.1: Investigate the need of the construction of boat pathways and trails around the buffer zone of Skadar lake Montenegro

Boat pathway in the SR Panceva oka was the main concern as it included proposition and the possible shortest way around the pelican colony. Movement from the existing boat routes could bring more fuel consumption by the fisherman and, depending on the length of the pathway, could surpass the income from the daily fish catch. To avoid such scenario boat pathways were marked in close cooperation between the project partners (mainly Noe, Natural History Museum, Tour du Valat, EuroNatur, Center for Protection and Research of Birds and NP Skadar Lake) and the local fishermen. Mapping was drafted during the workshop "Conservation of Pelicans, a Key Biodiversity Species of Skadar Lake" held from 1st to 3rd of August 2014 in Tuzi, Montenegro. On August 3rd mapping was done via GPS on the Lake together with the fishermen which were guiding the mapping. As a result boat pathway was made with an optimal use of existing routes and with respect to both the fishermen and the 300 m perimeter around the pelican colony. In addition the proposed boat pathway included opening of a channel that would decrease

the length of the route going from land and reaching the open water and would decrease the fuel consumption for the fishermen. Boat pathway has become an action welcomed by the fishermen and the local community is eager to see this activity continued and the pathway constructed in the future.



Picture 1: Routes proposed by the local fishermen (yellow and orange). Blue line represents the current route for the fishermen at the time of the marking (August, 2014). red targets represent the nesting sites with 300m radius. The thick red line represents the zonation around pelican nesting sites.

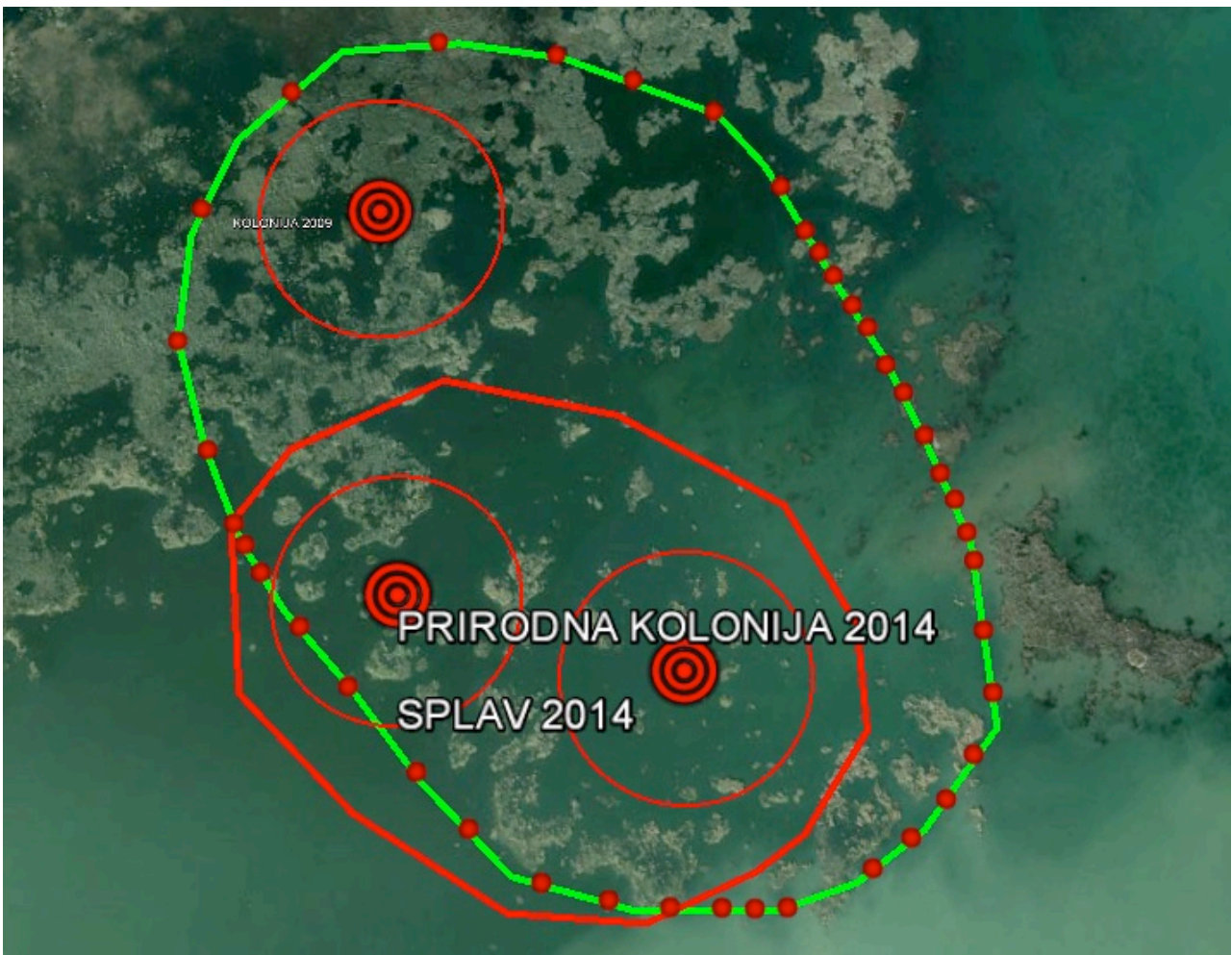
Proposition on location of the boat pathway, its impact on the environment and maintenance was provided in the Activity report Lake Skadar 2014 from Tour du Valat, prepared by Patrick Grillas and Anthony Olivier and submitted in November 2014. It is important to add that the Activity report contains proposition that "Considering the conservation issues and the potential impacts, an environmental impact assessment following international standards needs to be made prior to any work." regarding the boat pathway.

Currently the fishermen are mostly using their old route (the blue one cf. picture 1) that varies based on the water level, and it joins the yellow route and the orange route. In general fishermen are respecting the zonation perimeter and we have reached the absence of day disturbance of the pelican colony. Route to the open water is slightly enlarged by avoiding the zonation but is respected by the fishermen based on our good cooperation and their involvement in the active protection of the colony. The general

movement of the fishermen related both to fishing and the protection of the colony is monitored and regulated by the authorities of the NPSL. As Panceva oka is a SR the boat pathway adds to the already existing plans of the NPSL to protect the natural values of the area. Both the NPSL and the local fishermen see the proposition on the boat pathway as a welcomed solution to the existing need to control the boat routes and protect both fish stock and the pelican colony.

- 2.2.2.1: Define and materialize the zonation of the restricted area around the colony and
- 2.2.2.2: Develop a proper patrolling plan around the colony and implement regular patrolling

Zonation around the pelican colonies was redone also based on the consultation with the local community during the workshop "Conservation of Pelicans, a Key Biodiversity Species of Skadar Lake". The new zonation was made to both respect the 300m perimeter around the pelican colony (at past it even surpasses this instance) but was also considering fishing places and routes. The old colony site that was used once in 2009 was excluded from the zonation thus opening the second possibility for the boat pathway.



Picture 2: Green line shows the old zonation, red line shows the new zonation with the red targets showing the position of the pelican colonies and the 300m perimeter around them.

It is important to state that the main focus of the zonation was preventing disturbance to the pelican colony during nesting season. All fishing activities in SR Panceva oka and inside the zonation were left to be regulated by the NPSL authorities. As a part of the joint

effort to decrease disturbance to the pelican colony NPSL has added two patrols for the zonation perimeter at SR Panceva oka. These additional activities however enforce the existing law and do not bring any new restriction to the local fishermen. During the meeting with the fishing organization for the whole Lake Skadar we were informed that the additional patrols were welcomed as the fishermen are supporting the prevention of illegal fishing especially fishing with electricity which is mainly happening in the marshland that includes the zonation. To aid the wardening of the area we are developing a ranger station under Hum hill which will decrease the time for rangers reaching the pelican colony from 2 hours to 15 minutes. The new ranger station will also control the main Lake entrance to SR Panceva oka and will share the venue with the meeting room of the Skadar Lake fishing association and the Info Center. This will bring rangers, fishermen and tourists together under one roof and enable continuing of good communication, planning and control of the activities in SR Panceva oka.

Tourist activities

During the implementation period of the project we did not have any tourist visits to the pelican colony. This was expected in the Involuntary restrictions-Process Framework as the entrance of the tourist boat to the SR Panceva oka is strictly prohibited. Zonation additionally enforced the "no go zone" around the pelican nesting sites which is maintained by the wardening service of NPSL and following the existing regulations. However sustainable tourism based on responsible pelican watching is seen as a good income alternative to fishing, and especially illegal fishing, which will help decrease the disturbance of pelicans. The local community would welcome a sustainable tourism including local products, folklore, games, music, storytelling and traditional fishing. In order to develop sustainable tourism we have worked with the Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro, NPSL, Natural History Museum, Municipality of Tuzi and local community of Podhum. Together we have started to develop local tourist offer based on local values and responsible pelican watching. Info center is in the process of activation under Hum hill (Podhum). The new Info Center will showcase the new tourist offer developed for Podhum and will include the visit to the trail on Hum hill for pelican watching via scope, camping site and educational trail under Hum hill, offer of local products, boat trips to birdwatching tower at Stanaj, viewing of the live stream video monitoring from the nesting rafts for the pelicans and one yearly event named "Malesija my home" dedicated to the "pelican friendly activities and products" and including local music, song, dance, food and drinks. EuroNatur has also started with the preparation of the study on Pelican villages, a concept similar to European Stork villages. Field study which included meeting with the local institutions, municipality of Tuzi, local community of Malesija and visit to Info Centers is already conducted. There is a good interest from the local community of Podhum to be the first Pelican village and good support from NPSL and Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro for this initiative. The development of tourism is seen as a slow process that must both respect the pacing of the local community and development of management of the NPSL.