

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

Date

29.05.2020

CEPF Grant 110834

Grantee

Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development –BFS

Project Title

**Monitoring and Conservation of Endemic and Endangered Trout (*Salmo peristericus*) in
National Park Pelister and Prespa region**

Project Location

National Park Pelister, Prespa region, Republic of North Macedonia

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization.
Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development –BFSD
2. Grant title.
Monitoring and Conservation of Endemic and Endangered Trout (*Salmo peristericus*) in National Park Pelister and Prespa region
3. Grant number
4. Grant amount (Euros).
43737 €
5. Proposed dates of grant.
June 2020 to November 2021
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken.
National Park Pelister, Prespa region, Republic of North Macedonia
7. Date of preparation of this document.
29.05.2020

The Process Framework will describe the project and how restrictions of access to natural resources and measures to assist affected communities. Affected communities should have the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the Process Framework. Typically, the Applicant will prepare a draft Framework that will then be shared and discussed with local communities and other relevant stakeholders. Based on the consultations, a final Framework will be prepared. CEPF may provide guidance on development of the Framework and will review and approve the final Framework prior to approving the final project proposal application. The Process Framework should include the following elements:

A. Project background

Fundamental components of the project are development of Assessment study and Conservation Action Plan (CAP) for the endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*). Main project objective is the improvement of the status of the population of the endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*) through protection, monitoring and conservation in the National Park Pelister and Prespa region. Numerous project activities will be undertaken to assess of the population status of the endemic and endangered trout, addressing the risks and challenges for the population as well as develop the monitoring and conservation practices for the species as well as proposals and recommendations for a species conservation action plan, accompanied with capacity building of the personal of NP Pelister and other Stakeholders.

Prespa region is a unique natural area whose geomorphology, ecology, biodiversity and cultural significance is of international importance, as a vital habitat for the conservation of numerous rare and endemic species, and as depository of significant natural and traditional heritage. Prespa was recognized as an EU and Global Hot Spot for biodiversity and was declared as Transboundary Park in 2010. National Park Pelister is the oldest protected area in Macedonia proclaimed in 1948, recognized for significant value of biodiversity. Currently the park covers 17,150 ha, of the Baba Mountain, reaching the border with Greece. National Park Pelister is part of Emerald network, IUCN Green Belt and proposed for NATURA 2000 sites. Location of the proposed project activities will be on Brajcinska, Kranska and Leva River, as part of Macro Prespa catchment basin area in North Macedonia. Brajcinska River is located in National Park Pelister and municipality of Resen, near villages of Brajcino and Ljubojno. Brajcinska River is

identified as one of main water source of Lake Prespa where endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*) is situated. Brajcinska River and their tributaries located in upper region in NP Pelister from previous investigation's results confirmed highest Prespa trout population size compared with trout populations in Kranska and Leva River. Hydropower plants were constructed on Brajcinska River after previous research activities in 2008. Kranska River is located in municipality of Resen, on Baba Mountain, dividing villages of Krani and Arvati, Leva River is located in municipality of Resen. Kranska and Leva River were identified from previous investigation to have different population of endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*), compared with Brajcinska River and Agios Germanos (Greece).

Project will contribute to improved assessment, protection and conservation of endemic and endangered trout in water catchment, as part of CMZ (Prespa Lake catchment), by review of institutional responsibilities, environmental monitoring and ecosystem management, international conservation activities, ongoing research on conservation and raising of public awareness. Specific objectives of the project are: Preparation of a conservation action plan for the endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*); Institutional strengthening for monitoring and conservation of endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*); Raise awareness for protection and conservation of endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*). Planned synergy between proposed partners, BFSD and Ekosvest, as an official partner of WWF Adria from one side and National Park Pelister with other Stakeholders involved in management of water resources and freshwater biodiversity in Prespa region on the other side will enhance and improve institutional capacities for monitoring and conservation of endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*).

B. Participatory implementation

Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development BFSD, as a regional non-governmental organization facilitate and support economic, social and environmentally sustainable development in Macedonia, and the region, by supporting conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. Eko-svest as an official WWF Adria partner will be directly involved as a partner in the project activities. BFSD and Eko-svest has established cooperation on different projects regarding protection of natural resources and climate change. Eko-svest supports and encourages civil awareness and active participation and promotes practical solutions for sustainability and environmental protection in cooperation with other organizations and institutions. Engagement of key stakeholders will contribute for successful implementation of the proposed project activities and achievement of the project objectives. Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development – BFSD and project coordinator have previous collaboration on several projects with managing authorities at the National Park Pelister, complemented by signed Memorandum for cooperation. National Park Pelister as targeted area and its personnel will be directly included in project activities on one side, but also as direct beneficiary on the other side. Development of Assessment study and Conservation Action Plan will be communicated and coordinated with NP Pelister and other relevant Stakeholders (Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Municipality of Resen, the Lake Prespa watershed council, National Forests Public Enterprise, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management etc.) to ensure long-term sustainability and divided responsibility for effective monitoring program and needed conservation actions. Stakeholders will participate in strengthening the policies and action plans for sustainable management of water resources and conservation, by working together to harmonize and streamline biodiversity concerns into national policies and regulations. Enhanced CSOs involvement in promoting sustainable water resources management and freshwater biodiversity conservation at local, national and transboundary level will be supported. During the project, already established contacts and continuing cooperation with local population, local CSOs and other local institutions will be important base for successful completed project. Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development – BFSD and project coordinator have prior relationship and communication with CSOs in this region as: Eco Gerila (Resen), Rural women (Resen), Spirit of Prespa (Resen) and Association of

Creative Development Lotus Mediam Bitola. Previous direct contacts with local population of more than 20 villages neighbouring NP Pelister, especially in the targeted region of Brajcino, Ljubojno, Arvati, Krani and other villages in proximity of targeted site will be a valuable for project implementation. Fostered collaboration, commitment and unity among project team and Stakeholders in NP Pelister and Prespa Region will be priority in conservation of Prespa trout as an important endemic and endangered species. Raised awareness based on scientific assessment and sustainable monitoring and conservation plans can be reached via the collective and collaborative meetings/workshops, e-mail communication and exchange of information on various issues. CAP will be developed by conducting meetings / interviews between project team, expert/experts and stakeholders in order to assess role of individual stakeholders according national legislation, internal rulebooks, previous activities and future plans and opportunities connected with project objectives.

Effective Coordination of the project between Project Partners and Stakeholders is essential to improve operation and communication between different stakeholders and their role in in monitoring and conservation activities of endemic and endangered trout (*Salmo peristericus*), will be managed by: Organization of regular meetings with stakeholders; Organization of meetings of the Project Stakeholder Council (PSC); Organization of project kick off workshop/meeting; Organization of project closing workshop/meeting for dissemination of the results; Conducting meetings / interviews between project team, expert/experts and stakeholders to develop Conservation Action plan accepted by Stakeholders; Development of Draft CAP to be evaluated and approved by stakeholders; and Adoption of the Conservation Action Plan (CAP) by Stakeholders.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

Access to the protected area NP Pelister is rather restricted, and visitors as well as local population are aware of the regulations in place, however, illegal fishing might occur. In general, no affected persons appear during the project activities in protected area, due to active protection and monitoring from NP Pelister personal. The area that is not protected has established hydropower plant that restrict water flow and may have influence on endemic Prespa trout.

The development of the Conservation Action Plan based on Assessment study and consultation with Stakeholders and enforcement of the measures and recommendations expected as result of the project might result in restricting some activities for some stakeholders: Persons running private business (small hydropower plants), have to restore and achieve natural water flow in order to protect the status of the endemic and endangered trout species, so these persons will have to improve sustainable use of water resources; Fishermens (Illegal fishing practices should be band to ensure protection of Prespa trout; Strict quotas for amateur fishermen should be set and analyzed by all involved stakeholders; Local population will be informed by direct and indirect means; Long-term benefits are expected for local population in order to protect freshwater biodiversity for future generations) and potentially Farmers (to change agricultural practices that have effect on the water quality (if it is detected by Assessment study results) in the lower parts of the rivers near the villages).

Strategic communications and consultation will be integrated in the project, trough project activities in order to ensure commitment of management authorities of protected area NP Pelister, national institutions, local community and other stakeholders at all levels as well as the public for cooperative effort to increase sustainable management of freshwater biodiversity.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

The only potentially affected groups in this case, as well as the wider public will have the opportunity to raise their concerns about the project activities during the regular meetings with stakeholders. All concerns

will be duly noted, discussed and taken into consideration in the completion of the proposed project activities. Local communities will be informed of the Assessment Study results in order to change farming and fishing practices, without undertaking illegal activities.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

The project team from partner organization (BFSD and Eko-svest) will establish a grievance mechanism in order to provide means to address complaints and/or conflict situations by any stakeholder or a person affected by the project. The grievance mechanism will be publically available and will be communicated with all project participants as well as the local community, through direct communication, posters, leaflets etc. in Macedonian and English. Any person or a group of people has the right to raise an official or unofficial complaint, and the project coordinator has the obligation to respond within 15 days. The project coordinator will be the first contact person for receiving the grievances. Her details (name, email and postal address) along with the contact information of the grantee organization, the CEPF Regional Implementation Team, the Executive Director and the World Bank local office will be made available to the public and the project stakeholders using the abovementioned means.

All projects that trigger a safeguard must provide local communities and other relevant stakeholders with a means to raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank.

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

- Email and telephone contact information for the grantee organization.
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.
- Email and telephone contact information for the local World Bank office.
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- A statement describing how you will inform stakeholders of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism (e.g., posters, signboards, public notices, public announcements, use of local languages).
- You should include the following text, exactly, in any grievance mechanism: “We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.”

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

F. Implementation Arrangements

All efforts will be made to include potentially affected persons in the development of Assessment study and Conservation Action Plan (CAP). BFSD will provide the necessary contacts and information to the experts. Prior to the development of the final conservation plan, affected persons (if any) will be consulted during the drafting of the CAP. All points discussed during the meetings will be formulated in “minutes of meetings”. When clear actions are agreed upon, the final plan will be developed, integrating the needs of affected people as well as the agreed upon actions.

The above will be reported regularly to CEPF as part of the semi-annual performance reports.