

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

Date: 05.03.2019

CEPF Grant 48

Grantee

Project Title

Date shell has more value in the sea than on the plate

Project Location: Vlore, Albania

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization. SEEP
2. Grant title. **Date shell has more value in the sea than on the plate**
3. Grant number: 48
4. Grant amount: 18.630 USD.
5. Proposed dates of grant. 15.03.2019
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken. Albania
7. Date of preparation of this document. 05.03.2019

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

The project will be implemented at KBA Karaburun Peninsula, that is a peninsula of the Mediterranean Sea located in Southern and Southeastern Europe, which is almost completely surrounded by both the Adriatic Sea to the north and the Ionian Sea to the south. It is located in Southwestern Albania along the Albanian Ionian Sea Coast, whereas the Strait of Otranto separates it from Italy. The Strait of Mezokanal dissociates the peninsula from Sazan Island, while in the southeast stretches the Bay of Vlorë, the coast of which has been heavily damaged by illegal date shell (*Lithophaga lithophaga*) hunters. A part of the littoral is located within the Marine and Coastal Protected Area (MCPA). Date shell harvest intensity is growing year-by-year. This causes the addition of restaurants that trade it and tourists who enjoy it. According to Albanian law no. 64/2012 Article 16 and 37, Dt. 31/05/2012, date shell hunting and trading in restaurants is illegal. However, this activity is carried out regularly under the nose of the military checkpoint, the State Environmental Inspectorate, the State Fishery Inspectorate, the Protected Area Administration, the Border Police, the National Food Agency and other institutions.

The project, in cooperation with local associations, will directly engage all these institutions and tour operators along the coast, to make them active in implementing the law and stopping the abuse of date shell. This will be accomplished through roundtables with these actors and information-education of the community and the users of the date shell through the mass media.

B. Participatory implementation

SEEP is a local organization based on membership, has over 1630 official members today and is well-known to the community of the area, through many activities it has carried out over the years for the promotion and preservation of Protected Areas, promotion of sustainable economic activities in the area , social and environmental education of the community in partnership with the Municipality, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Agriculture, etc.

Project activities will engage the above-mentioned parties and the community represented by associations of community, tourism, social and environmental in the area to make them active in implementation of the law on date shell protection.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

The affected persons are:

1. Date shell poachers who carry out illegal activities are therefore not considered, therefore the project does not foresee any direct activity in co-operation with these persons.
2. Restaurants that trade date shell. They are also doing illegal activities, so they are not taken into consideration. We will engage them in project activities to turn them into positive actors by arguing that not only the law should be applied, but also that date shell has more value in its ecosystem than in a plate of pasta. In addition, we will suggest that they engage date shell poachers as tour guides in the coast, as they are very familiar with the area and this way will not be not left jobless.
3. Date shell consumers are not considered to be in direct violation of the law, so this category is worth considering as an affected party, from project activities, because they will miss the date shells in their plates. From different consultations with consumers two very significant conclusions were reached. First, it is said that the date is very tasty, but does not differ from the other mollusks, while the second says that the issue is purely psychological, since the date is a living thing that can pierce the rock, is rare and healthy.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

Restaurants will be suggested to use other mollusks, non-rock-piercer in pasta dishes, in order not to lose their customers.

For date shell customers, the project has foreseen to carry out some activities such as expeditions with the youth and stakeholders in the damaged coast, media spots and TV shows, documentaries, school talks, posters.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

As explained above, SEEP is in direct contact with the local communities, who simply contact the staff or visit SEEP's center to present a request or a complaint. Complainants are asked to write down their comments or are assisted to do so. Visitors usually send their feedback through an online sheet.

All complaints are studied committedly by SEEP. When a conflict arises, and when required, a third party is called upon to assist in facilitating the resolution. The third party is often someone from local institutions who is acquainted with SEEP's mission and the local's demands.

In the scope of this project, the same methodology will be used. All complaints will be recorded in writing. If a conflict arises, a third party (preferably a local institutions) will be called upon to mediate the solution. During the implementation of the project activities, their relation to the CEPF programme and donors will be explained, and the possibility of reaching out to the secretariat mentioned. A roll-up banner will be developed for the project and showcased during the implementation of the activities. The banner will include an A5 box indicating the possibility to raise complaints and reach out to CEPF, including the addresses of the RIT Programme Officer borut.rubinic@dopps.si, the Regional Implementation Team Manager Liz Smith, and the possibility to raise the complaint to CEPF Secretariat or the national World Bank office.

In the highly improbable case where the project activities themselves are generating complaints, and the normal procedure is not leading to a resolution, the written complaints will be sent to 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. 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.

F. Implementation Arrangements

All project activities will take into account date shell customers, as affected parties. The messages we collect through emails, social networks from consumers, will mention them and discuss them in project activities and in the media.

Restaurants will be encouraged to promote pasta dishes with other mollusks.

Consumer statements, the debate about them and the solutions offered will be part of the CEPF reporting.