

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Date

30.06.2020.

CEPF Grant-110829

26.070,00

Grantee

NVO Župa u srcu

Project Title

Plant Diversity within the Wet and Aquatic Habitats of Nikšićpolje basin (Budoš ponds - Vrtac reservoir, Zeta river, Gračanica river), Montenegro.

Project Location

Nikšić, Montenegro

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization.
NGO Župa u srcu
2. Grant title.
Plant Diversity within the Wet and Aquatic Habitats of Nikšićpolje basin (Budoš ponds - Vrtac reservoir, Zeta river, Gračanica river), Montenegro.
3. Grant number
CEPF-110829
4. Grant amount (US dollars).
26.070,00
5. Proposed dates of grant.
01.06.2020. - 31.11.2021.
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken.
Montenegro
7. Date of preparation of this document.
30.06.2020.
8. **Introduction:** This section will briefly describe the project including design elements and potential social and environmental issues. Where possible, include maps of the project site and surrounding area.

The ENDEMNIK project includes the research of critically endangered plants of aquatic and wetland habitats of the karst Nikšić field - the Vrtac reservoir (Budoške bare), the upper course of the river Zeta and the river Gračanica.



Map of the Nikšić basin with the rivers Zeta and Gračanica and locations where research is conducted

Wet and aquatic habitats of the Nikšić field also represent a potential type of NATURA 2000 habitat. Determining the type of NATURA 2000 habitats is a good basis for taking further steps in conservation and protection as well as a good basis for education and familiarization with the importance of such rare and critically endangered plant species and habitats.

The main goal of the project is to contribute to the inventory and conservation of biodiversity of aquatic and wetland habitats in Montenegro.

Specific objective 1: Creation of a database of plants of aquatic and wetland habitats of the Nikšić field and assessment of their endangerment.

Specific objective 2: Increasing knowledge about endemic plant species in the Nikšić basin
 The project will conduct research and create a database of plants of the reservoir Vrtac (Budoške bare), Rijeka Zeta (Gornje polje), Rijeka Gračanica (Župa Nikšićka), identify potential Natura 2000 habitats, analyze the state and threats to biodiversity in this area and increase knowledge on the importance of endemic plant species.

9. **Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities:** If the grantee has undertaken any activities to date, including information disclosure and/or consultation, provide the following details: Type of information disclosed, in what form (e.g., oral, brochure, reports, posters, radio, etc.), and how it was disseminated;

On the project "Yes, I choose clean", we had the participation of various stakeholders in the campaign to establish organized waste collection and disposal in the Župa Nikšićka. Apart from the locals, the stakeholders in this project were JP Komunalno Nikšić, JU OŠ, Dušan Bojović, MZ Župa Nikšićka, Municipality of Nikšić and private companies that additionally supported the action. On this project, JP Komunalno Nikšić provided us with the installation of 27 containers, MZ Župa and private companies participated in the construction of places for containers, the Municipality of Nikšić helped clean landfills, and the elementary school helped raise environmental awareness of locals.

On the project "Academy of Sustainability", we had as stakeholders the residents of the village of Bjeloševina, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Municipality of Nikšić and the Local Community of Župa. On this project, we did the reconstruction of the old mill in the settlement of Bjeloševina. With the help of Župa u srcu and Uniprom metali, the mixed citizens broke through 450 m of the road to the mill, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Municipality of Nikšić asphalted the road to the mill through the IFAD program, and MZ Župa helped with the reconstruction.

Current Project

So far, a press release has been made on the occasion of the beginning of the Endemnik project. The announcement was published in the largest print media in Montenegro, Dan and Vijesti.



Information about project was also transmitted by the Internet media www.vijesti.me (<https://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/drustvo/443169/projekat-vrijedan-26-hiljada-dolara>) (<https://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/drustvo/443743/popisace-biljke-niksickog-polja>), www.onogost.me (<https://www.onogost.me/drustvo/istrazivace-biljni-svijet-u-vlaznim-stanistima-niksickog-polja>), www.mladiniksica.me (<https://www.mladiniksica.me/prave-bazu-podataka/>), www.zupa.today (<https://zupa.today/vijesti/radice-se-istrazivanje-biljaka-18-mjeseci.html>), Dan online (<https://www.dan.co.me/?nivo=3&rubrika=Regioni&clanak=748414&datum=2020-06-17>)

The announcement was also sent to the e-mail network of NGOs: OtvoreniNikšić and CRNVO.

The Endemnik project gained importance especially because Elektroprivreda activated the project translating the Zeta River into Lake Krupac and Slano. Realisation this project will have a significant impact on the flora of wetlands in Budoške bare and around the Vrtac reservoir.

At the public discussion on the environmental impact assessment of this project, the representative of the organization Župa u srcu said his comments, which were transmitted by most of the media. The print and electronic media also reported details from the public hearing. The comments on this document were also officially sent in writing form.

- The locations and dates of any meetings undertaken to date;

On June 25, we held a meeting with the representatives of MZ Župa: Dragoljub Radulović and Milan Dragnić, where we introduced them to the project and project activities that should be implemented in Župa. A meeting was also held with the director of the elementary school "DušanBojović" in Župa about the activities that should be realized in the school.

Yesterday we called a representative of the Society of Young Ecologists by phone to schedule a meeting with local environmental NGOs. The meeting environmental NGOs is scheduled for the 07. July.

- Individuals, groups, and/or organizations that have been consulted: MZ ŽupaNikšićka, JU OŠ „DušanBojović", Society of Young Ecologists.

- Key issues discussed and key concerns raised;

We discussed about project activities and the role of stakeholders in individual activities on the project.

- Grantee response to issues raised, including any commitments or follow-up actions;

All questions from stakeholders and stakeholders about project and research will be answered by the organization during the meetings or answered in writing upon request.

- Process undertaken for documenting these activities and reporting back to stakeholders.

A list of participants will be signed at all meetings and a joint photo will be taken.

10. Project Stakeholders: This section will list the key stakeholder groups who will be informed and consulted about the project. These should include persons or groups who:

- Are directly and/or indirectly affected by the project or have “interests” in the project that determine them as stakeholders; and
- Have the potential to influence project outcomes (examples of potential stakeholders are affected communities, local organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government authorities. Stakeholders can also include politicians, companies, labor unions, academics, religious groups, national social and environmental public sector agencies, and the media).

The key stakeholders are the municipality of Nikšić with public company Vodovod d.o.o., residents located near the rivers of the Niksic basin, company ElektroprivredaCrne Gore A.D., Monastery Sv. Luka, Elementary school „DušanBojović". Also important stakeholders are local environmental NGOs, state Environmental Agency, local community Župa and young researchers.

11. Stakeholder Engagement Program: This section will summarize the purpose and goals of the program. Briefly describe what information will be disclosed, in what formats, and the types of methods that will be used to communicate this information to each of the identified groups of stakeholders. Methods used may vary according to target audience, for example:



- Newspapers, posters, radio, television;
- Information centers and exhibitions or other visual displays; and
- Brochures, leaflets, posters, non-technical summary documents and reports.

To involve the population and increase their environmental awareness, we will use media announcements about the project and project activities as well as meetings with local representatives. The local population will be involved in the project activities through exhibitions and workshops. The planned video will draw attention to potentially endangered areas of the Nikšić basin and the plant species that exist in them.

12. Consultation methods: This section will describe the methods that will be used to consult with each of the stakeholder groups identified in previous sections. Methods used may vary according to target audience, for example:

- Interviews with stakeholder representatives and key informants;
- Surveys, polls, and questionnaires;
- Public meetings, workshops, and/or focus groups with a specific group;
- Participatory methods; and
- Other traditional mechanisms for consultation and decision-making.

Methods will be used with the representatives of the municipality of Nikšić: Interviews with stakeholder representatives and key informants;

Methods will be used with NGO representatives: Public meetings, workshops, and/or focus groups with a specific group;

Methods will be used with the citizens: Surveys, polls, and questionnaires, directly interview ...

In order to involve local authorities, it will be necessary to hold meetings, explain what benefits the project brings and how they can be involved in these activities. A round table will also be held to discuss joint participation.

We will use face-to-face talks and a round table to involve NGOs in process of area protection.

13. Other Engagement Activities: This section will describe any other engagement activities that will be undertaken, including participatory processes, joint decision-making, and/or partnerships undertaken with local communities, NGOs, or other project stakeholders. Examples include benefit-sharing programs, community development initiatives, resettlement and development programs, and/or training and microfinance programs.

In addition to meetings and round tables, an educational lecture on endemic species intended for the local population and students, an educational lecture and an exhibition of photographs of wetland plants for children at the elementary school "Dusan Bojovic" in Zupa, the publication of videos on research and wetland plants of Nikšić, text with project topic will be published in professional journals, educational boards on endangered plant species will be set up on, and the collected herbarium material will be used for the training of young researchers.

14. Timetable: This section will provide a schedule outlining dates and locations when various stakeholder engagement activities, including consultation, disclosure, and partnerships will take place and the date by which such activities will be incorporated into project design.

- The first meeting with local representatives of NGOs is scheduled for July 7. The meeting with the representatives of the municipality will be until July 15. The roundtable could be held by the end of July.

- An educational lecture on wet and aquatic plants of the Nikšić basin is planned to be held in April 2021 at the Faculty of Philosophy in Nikšić.
- Publication of a report on the potential habitats of the Natura 2000 in the Nikšić basin will be completed in September 2021 and will last for 12 months. The report will be presented and sent to the Municipality of Nikšić and the Environmental Protection Agency so that they can better understand the need to protect the area.
- Educational lecture and exhibition of photographs of wetland plants for children in the elementary school 'Dušan Bojović' in Župa is planned for May 2021.
- Organizing an exhibition on the explored biological values of wet and aquatic habitats is planned at the Science Days 2020 in September.
- Practical training for young researchers, biology students, locals and nature lovers in finding and conserving rare endemic species in the Nikšić catchment area will be organized in spring 2021.
- Advocacy, lobbying and holding meetings with representatives of the Nikšić Municipality and representatives of environmental NGOs from Nikšić with a view to defining common courses of action regarding the protection of the Nikšić basin will be continuous over the project period.
- Research and development of an analysis of the condition, threat and impact of the biodiversity wetlands around the Vrtac (Budoška bare), Rijeka Zeta (Gornje polje), Gračanica (Župa Nikšićka) basin to be sent to local government, the Environmental Protection Agency and other relevant institutions is continuous work and will be finished in September 2021. This analysis will serve as a basis for discussing solving the problem of negative impacts on the area of the Zeta and Gračanica river basins.

15. **Resources and Responsibilities:** This section will indicate what staff and resources will be devoted to managing and implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Who within the project team will be responsible for carrying out these activities? What budget has been allocated toward these activities?

The project coordinator is in charge of communication and improvement of cooperation with stakeholders. A special budget for these activities is not planned except for fuel and communication costs.

16. **Grievance mechanism:** 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. NVO Župa u srcu: e-mail zupausrcu@gmail.com; 00382 69 435 785
- Regional Implementation Team Manager, Liz Smith: liz.smith@birdlife.org
- Local World Bank office: jhadzic@worldbank.org; (387 33) 251 502,.
- CEPF Executive Director, Olivier Langrand: 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.

For all complaints of residents and other stakeholders arising from the implementation of project activities and the initiation of the process of protection of the area, instructions will be made for submission to the organization of the Župa in the heart and other donors involved in the process. We will post the notice on the portal www.zupa.today so that it is visible to the general public.

All complaints can be submitted in person at the offices of the NVO Župa u srcu at the address: Miolje Polje bb, 81418, Župa Nikšićka or by e-mail zupausruc@gmail.com. The organization will form a commission with a representative of the local community that will resolve requests for potential conflicts. Contacts of donor representatives will also be available through the potentially endangered introduction of Natura 2000 habitats. If the parties fail to reach an agreement, the potentially vulnerable will be left with the option of sending complaints to project donors. If the complainant fails to make an agreement in that way, he has the opportunity to address the competent state authorities. For complaints to which the injured party does not receive a response from the organization within 15 days, it will be possible to send complaints to the addresses given in this document.

17. Monitoring and Reporting: This section will describe any plans to involve project stakeholders (including affected communities) or third-party monitors in the monitoring of project impacts and mitigation programs. Describe how and when the results of stakeholder engagement activities will be reported back to affected stakeholders as well as broader stakeholder groups.

All stakeholders will be informed about the planned activities and results of the project. The parties that will be affected by the results of the project will be informed about it through letters and press releases. Letters on the results of the project will be delivered to key parties that may be affected, such as Elektroprivreda Crne Gore and Vodovod Nikšić, which manages the wastewater collector in Nikšić.

At the end of public events such as lectures and trainings, participants will complete an evaluation questionnaire about experiences at the event and project activities.

The project coordinator will hold regular monthly meetings with the project staff where will be summarized the achieved results and compliance with the planned activities.

The feedback and the progress of the activities will be reported to CEPF and the RIT as specified in the CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance project component.