



Small Grants – Final Completion and Impact Report

Instructions: CEPF requires that each grantee report on project results and impacts at the end of their grant. To monitor CEPF's global indicators, CEPF will aggregate the data that you submit with data from other grantees, to determine the overall impact of CEPF investment. The aggregated results of all grantees will be reported on in our annual impact report and other communications materials. Your Final Completion and Impact Report will be posted on the CEPF website.

Ensure that the information provided pertains to the entire project, from start date to project end date.

Please complete all fields and respond to all questions listed below.

Organization Legal Name: Program za životnu sredinu/ Environment Programme - EnvPro

Project Title: Enabling environment for joint bottom-up protection and sustainable development planning for Bojana river basin

Grant Number: CEPF-110713

Date of Completion of this Report: 30/04/2022 (actual submission date 06/05/2022)

CEPF Hotspot: Mediterranean Biodiversity Hotspot

Strategic Direction: SD 2: Sustainable management of water catchments: Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity.

Grant Amount: 37.000 US\$ (30.000 US\$ initial grant and 7.000 US\$ extension grant)

Actual Expenditures: 36.800.84 US\$

Project Dates: 15/6/2020 – 31/03/2022

PART I: Overview

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

The Centre for Ecnics and Ecosystem Management, University Eberswalde, Germany, Prof. Dr. Pierre L. Ibisch

Methodological guidance in applying ecosystem-based approach (MARISCO). Professional expert support to the assessment, capacity building and stakeholder engagement activities. Development of the strategic direction and continuation of EnvPro presence, systemic and sustainable interventions in the area.

- **Martin Schnider Jacoby Association – MSJA, NGO from Ulcinj, Montenegro**

NGO was very supportive for sharing their experience in the area of protection of nature and cultural values research and reporting, participative MARISCO workshop assessment, visioning and strategic planning. The organisation was very active in implementation of an identified priority activity, development of concept notes for project proposals, networking with local and other organisations and providing continuity to the Action/Project.

Key stakeholders:

- **Crnogorsko Drustvo Ekologa/ Montenegrin Ecologist Society – MES/CDE, NGO from Podgorica, Montenegro**

Responsible for gathering information on habitats and plant species in the area, amphibian and reptile species. Together with EnvPro developing initiatives for their management and institutional recognition, being in need of capacity building they were engaged in participative ecosystem based research, workshop and reporting.

- **Green Home, NGO from Podgorica, Montenegro**

Alignment and coordination of activities with GH's project "Assessment of the Glass Eel Population in the River Bojana". GH has been invited to face to face meeting, with two held, for creating synergies with projects, and participated in 2nd workshop EnvPro organised as to integrate the findings and data organisation has in the MARISCO model. The initial results of the GH's project were not readily available, and exchange of info was not as intensive, as foreseen.

2. Summarize the overall results of your project

A study, named *The lower Bojana river basin and Ulcinj ecosystem complex: biodiversity, threats and strategies*, and a complementary web-application named *Bojana river and Ulcinj ecosystem open database (BRUOD)* (<https://bruod.envpro.me>) for presenting all relevant knowledge and data collected in the project, have been developed. The Study presents the background, method, findings and strategic framework for conservation and sustainable development of the project area in a risk robust, ecosystem-based manner. The MARISCO knowledge base, a software application, is digital extension of the study. The software application contains all georeferenced and relevant non-georeferenced data collected throughout the project's own research, and from many sources (undergone several agreements on data sharing) and is meant to be maintained and expanded in future.

In parallel and synergy to building outputs presented above, we met with international, national and local stakeholders relevant for the project area, to secure information sharing, explore possibilities for cooperation to finally engage with most eager and passionate individuals and organizations interested in collaborating to compose a non-formal local action group (LAG).

To steer the further group’s cohesion and potential for joint acting directed toward mitigation of pronounce threats to the areas values, EnvPro assisted non-formal LAG in implementing of *Cleaning, marking and valorization of the old road "Leqet e Milles-Ublat e Bolajve* action (instead of two smaller) in the Bojana basin. This was identified as priority (with high number of local organizations and individuals support, and high in-kind additional contribution).

LAG’s future work is supported by creating three project concept notes based on the local group’s choice of most relevant solutions they have capacities (assessed based on knowledge and management ratings) for to implement, last of which is advocacy focused. These are, namely: *Local nature and economy uniqueness; Bees’ Lives Matter; Local action: Halt deforestation in the Bojana river basin /catchment zone.*

3. Briefly describe actual progress towards each planned long-term and short-term impact (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each long-term impact from your proposal

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>Knowledge and awareness raising is furthered resulting in strategically planned protection and sustainable use of environmental resources in Bojana basin.</p>	<p>From the MARISCO-based analysis of the challenges, a structured and hierarchical framework of objectives emerged, developed in a participatory and iterative way. The initial analysis allows the identification of the larger strategic lines that are needed for the area sustainable development and for contemporary conservation. The implementation is of mid to long term framework, but the initial steps are taken both in further engagement of the local community and building strategic partnership with national and international organizations, submitting and implementing projects in line with the strategy development, knowledge and awareness raising realized through this project.</p> <p>Work on larger institutional sustainability and long term support of decision makers on the national level is achieved to some extent, but requires more attention and maintenance. Also, local level decision makers are not yet sufficiently reached, for unstable political situation.</p>

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
To apply most contemporary scientific standards in data analyses and presentation using ecosystem based approach and knowledge of relevant actors.	To create the outputs, presented in result section, we applied the MARISCO method ¹ . It is tool that enables a systematic and participatory co-production of knowledge (scientific, local and traditional) through adaptive learning and management, designed to guide conservationists and managers to treat areas of high conservation value, taking into account ecological and social, static and dynamic factors, with the end purpose being sustainable use of natural resources. Research work, workshops, study and database is structured following MARISCO method. It is open for use of researchers and conservationist. Methodological guidance in applying ecosystem-based approach is provided by our partner, contextual to the project.
To build understanding and coherence among local stakeholders and raise awareness on ecosystem services they depend on and opportunities within.	The crosscutting element of the work was building capacities of young researchers, NGOs and locals, involved in the project to systemically analyze ecosystem-based values and threats and develop strategic approaches for joint actions. Their vision, aspiration and knowledge of the ecosystem elements and opportunities within, are contained in the produced study and the further actions supported with the project and beyond.
At least 1 area selected for future protection and supported by at least one institution (Environment protection Agency – EPA) (defined within project extension)	The initiative to create a case example of a protected area designation process has been discussed between EnvPro and EPA, and it is to formally be confirmed in terms of creating Memorandum of understanding between the two organizations or project based partnership agreement, same was done with Ministry of ecology, and National Commission for UNESCO. The areas to be considered for nature protection are Bojana Delta and belonging wetlands, Šas Lake and Ada Bojana. However, the intention is to consider wider ecosystems scope, capacity building of EPA and other relevant SHs to contemporary assessment methods and to integrate preparation/participation of SHs to the designation (and collaborative management) realizing obligations and

¹ MARISCO stands for Adaptive **M**anagement of vulnerability and **R**ISK at **C**onservation sites. It is created by the Center for Ecnics and Ecosystem Management at Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, our project partner. See more at: <https://www.marisco.training/>

	<p>opportunities that comes with it and ensure their gradual support.</p> <p>EnvPro will use products of this project to further the work on protection of the scope area, and has been already doing so, with new initiatives, explained in the sustainability section.</p>
<p>At least 2 actions from LAP implemented by the end of the project (defined within project extension)</p>	<p>One larger action "Action for support of the protection of the Bojana River" has been implemented instead of two smaller, jointly decided on the 3rd workshop with non-formal LAG representatives (NGO MSJA, NGO MogUI, Reborn by Adventures, Mt. club Rumija, NGO ORA) supported by EnvPro, Local Touristic organization of Bar and Ulcinj, Local TV Teuta, Museum of Ulcinj, and many others (Non-governmental organization "ORA", Taekwando Club Ulcinj, Junior High School "Bratsvo-Jedinstvo" Ulcinj). The purpose of conducting the Action was to move away from mass tourism in the city of Ulcinj and create a sustainable tourist offer based on nature and community. Within this goal, LAG undertook the valorization and revitalization of the old road "Leqet e Millës - Ublat e Bolajve" - which connects the Anamal area with Arbneš, as a development of additional tourist offer, promotion of the nature and rich heritage of this region and creation of conditions for lovers of mountaineering activities. The goal is for this point to be part of the many tourist attractions offered by the municipalities of Ulcinj and Bar.</p> <p>The action exceeded the expected results and objectives in terms of local coherence, visibility, sustainability and gathered in kind support.</p>

4. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The initial project scope area KBA Bojana and its Catchment area, was extended to encompass larger eco-system complex for which the assessment, capacity building and strategic planning has been performed. Also, during the project and in a perspective transboundary, and Skadar Lake/ Drin River Basin scopes are included, providing for the much greater area of influence of the Action.

Intensified stakeholder engagement and capacity development was performed in terms of number of engaged organisations and individuals, and number of workshops/opportunities for learning, resulting in higher outreach and raised knowledge, understanding and interest in the scientific method but also in strategic results of the project.

Both of the above contributed to the new initiatives being in implementation or developed that are aiming to continue on the project results and impacts, expanding to transboundary, and possibly international context and long term protection and sustainable development effects and replication potential.

PART II: Project Products/Deliverables

5. List each product/deliverable as stated in your approved proposal and describe the results for each of them:

Deliverable Description	Deliverable Update
<p>1.1. Assessment of vulnerability status, risk and resilience of biodiversity and ecosystems with adjoined services presented in database and map forms</p>	<p><u>Assessment method guide</u> and accompany documents (submitted with the report)</p> <p>Biodiversity assessment of the Bojana basin and the extended area was performed following an ecosystem-based, adaptive and participatory approach. The specific method applied during the process was based on MARISCO, following published guidebook (Ibisch & Hobson, 2014). The elements of MARISCO methodology are: Ecosystems (and key biodiversity objects within them such as habitats), Key ecological attributes (e.g. species, climate, physio-chemical parameters of water, soil etc.), ecosystem services, human well-being (e.g. physical health, mental health etc.), social systems, social attributes, ecological stresses (e.g. decline in biodiversity), threats (e.g. illegal construction) and underlying factors and causes (e.g. corruption).</p> <p>An assessment method/guide for the project is developed in September 2020 by the Center for Econics and Ecosystem Management. Implementation of the method followed MARISCO phases and steps, adjusted to the project scope, aim and participatory approach. The method was presented on the 1st WSH, by the backstopping consultant Prof. Pierre L. Ibisch, while later implementation was also facilitated by EnvPro. Supportive documents as to ease the execution, understanding, collection of data and research were also developed by EnvPro, including excel sheets and baselines for data collection and analyses.</p> <p><u>Study report</u>: <i>The lower Bojana river basin and Ulcinj ecosystem complex: biodiversity, threats and strategies</i> (submitted with the report)</p> <p>Following the above described method development of the Study report was performed with many complementary project activities implemented in synergy (workshop, data base development, meetings and work with SHs,</p>

interviews, etc).

July – September (2020), research team gathering and stakeholder meetings. As a first step in project implementation, EnvPro set out to gather a broader research team which would contribute to the ecological assessment of the project scope and local SHs for participative assessment and strategic planning.

October – November (2020), Preparation of data collection methodology. After the workshop, EnvPro worked on preparing a data collection approach, for the purposes of creating a broad overview of ecological and other knowledge in the study. This included also preparation of questionnaires for interviewing local SHs. Both were created following the MARISCO structure and phases.

January – June (2021), desktop data collection and field research. In this period, EnvPro team worked intensely on desktop data collection, as well as the broader research team, which also conducted in the field research, in preparation for creation of this study and also the upcoming workshop with local SHs.

June – December (2021), Preparation of study 1st and 2nd draft and synthesizing collected data for the study and database. In this period, EnvPro worked on drafting the 1st and then 2nd study draft, which included sorting and preparing all collected data, review of studies, reports and papers, as well as review and integration of researchers' reports.

January – April (2022), Creation of study final draft. In this period, EnvPro finalized the study and web application, had them reviewed by the consultant Prof. Dr. Ibisch, and all the researchers.

May (2022), Study originally prepared in English, translation to Montenegrin and publishing, proceeded in May, after what the dissemination will be done.

In kind contribution:

Study design is not foreseen by project, and will be ensured by other EnvPro contribution/sources. Publication of final designed study is conducted in July.

Presentation of the study in **an event** was done planned for June, also as an in-kind contribution of EnvPro within UNESCO Public Participation for TB MAB BR Bojana/Buna – Youth empowerment Project.

Database application and blueprint document: *Bojana river and Ulcinj ecosystem open database (BRUOD)* (blueprint submitted with the report)

The database and applications structure set up reflect the MARISCO methodology used in the project, which systematically encompasses all aspects of socio-ecological knowledge. Under this structure all data gathered are systematized. It was important to implement the 1st workshop with local SHs and researchers to set up the above mentioned MARISCO structure fully, also within the assessment guidance and supportive documents and to then be able to transmit it to the blueprint document. Some MARISCO categories will have a lack of information (e.g. social attributes, because we didn't tackle them) or won't be geo referenced due to lack of data or lack of possibility to geo reference them (e.g. a lot of threats are challenging to geo reference, etc.), but are presented in the web application in an adequate available format.

Data featured in this web application encompass either data gathered through desktop research or from institutions / organizations / individuals who kindly shared their data or data directly downloaded from relevant databases. These are (last update from April 2022):

Freshwater macroinvertebrates: Danijela Šundić, freshwater ecology expert; Cultural objects (old housing units): Zenepa Lika, NGO Martin-Schneider Jacoby association (MSJA); Reptiles and amphibians: NGO Montenegrin ecologist society (MES), Vuk Iković, Katarina Ljubisavljević, Andrijana Mićanović, Jelena Popović; Birds: NGO Center for research and protection of birds (CZIP), Bojan Zeković; Dolphins: NGO Marine mammal research organization (DMAD), Aylin Akkaya; Macroinvertebrates: Bogić Gligorović, independent researcher; Bats: Radonjić M. with co-authors; NGO CZIP with NGO Euronatur: 2003 – 2020 bird monitoring data for Ulcinj salina; NGO Wetlands International (Andrej Vizi): 2003 – 2019 bird monitoring data Bojana delta; NGO DMAD: dolphin presence and abundance data for years 2016 – 2020; Birdlife International: Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and Key biodiversity areas (KBAs); Plantlife International: Important Plant Areas (IPAs); NGO Riverwatch and Ulrich Schwarz from Fluvius Vienna: hydropower plant data for the Balkans; Ministry of ecology and spatial planning, namely Ivana Stojanović and Željka Čurović: GEF Adriatic project database (including valuable data on habitats, ecological attributes, threats etc.); European environment agency (EEA) – EMERALD network site boundaries; UNEP WCMC and IUCN – world database on protected areas; WWF Hydrobasins – rivers, lakes and basins; Global biodiversity information facility (GBIF) – species data.

July (2020) – Jun (2021) Conceptualization of the database and meetings in

	<p>the team and with the backstopping consultant. Collection of data and signing of contracts for document sharing, maintenance and usage of the database information.</p> <p>June – August (2021) Preparation of database blueprint (structure) document. This document is designed to be a basis of database and web application creation, providing input to the IT expert for building them. The document contains a description of the vision of the database and target group, a detailed description of the type and format of data that was gathered, desired database structure and functions the organization requires of the database, as well as an overview of tasks regarding the database and some good database examples.</p> <p>September – December (2021) In this period we met with the IT expert, who, after reviewing the blueprint document started working on the database structure intensely and we supported him in doing so through meetings and reviews. A first draft version in jpg format of the database structure was provided and commented. Additionally, in this period, we shared with the IT expert the first “round” of data that would be found in the database.</p> <p>January – April (2022) web application finalization and uploading of data.</p> <p>May (2022) – ongoing, maintenance and expansion of the database.</p>
<p>2.2. Local stakeholders, their values and interests reinforced, raising awareness and understanding and designing strategic directions for protection and sustainable use of Bojana river basin</p>	<p><u>Stakeholders engagement</u>, capacity building, non-formal LAG and Action plan development: broad SHs list, interviews, meetings, etc. (documents submitted with the report, and some available in the Annexes of the Study) Parallel to whole project implementation, EnvPro mapped local, national and international stakeholders (institutions, organizations and individuals) of relevance to the project area and tried involving them in the project. This particular focus is due to the need for knowledge and awareness raising on sustainable use of environmental resources and values, as well as networking and collaborations that is necessary for underpinning successful conservation and sustainable development. The activities were implemented during entire project duration.</p> <p>For the start of SHs cooperation, we created a broad list of organizations, institutions and independent researchers – stakeholders, important for their mandates, data sharing, networking and ensuring project support, and regularly updated it throughout project implementation.</p>

We held a total of 25 meetings and many on line consultations with national and international representatives, from: Ministry of agriculture – Water directorate and Fishing directorate, Ministry of ecology – Nature protection directorate, International cooperation and EU directorate, Sustainable development, coastal/marine zone management and climate changes directorate (and consultation with Spatial planning directorate); Coastal Zone management Body (“Morsko dobro”); Environmental Protection Agency; Institute for hydro-meteorology; Institute for marine biology; Ministry of science, education, culture and sport - UNESCO National Commission office; Ulcinj municipality - Spatial planning, Environment, Agriculture secretariats (consultation with project units); EuroNatur; IUCN Ecargo; consultations with GIZ representatives; NGO Center for research and protection of birds (CZIP), NGO Montenegrin ecologists society; NGO Montenegrin naturalists society; NGO Green Home; etc.

We also conducted MARISCO-based semi-structured interviews with 19 of the local SHs. The purpose of the interviews was to, in preparation for the workshop with local SHs, preliminarily gather their knowledge of the area's ecological values, drivers of stress, ecosystem services, underlying factors and possibly on solutions and opportunities they envision. The questionnaire, bearing a structure relying on MARISCO elements, covered questions related to different MARISCO phases such as "What is an area / species / resource / cultural object / tradition you find is important to preserve in the project scope area?"; "What are the most important ecosystem services provided to you?", "What threats do you identify to the project scope area?" etc. The interviews were conducted to assist EnvPro in getting to know the local SHs and local conditions, as well as collect data included in the assessment. The response list is not made available as it is considered internal document, in order to protect micro profile data and opinions of SHs, yet the responses are cumulatively presented in the Study.

EnvPro also created a second comprehensive list of local stakeholders – institutions, NGOs and individuals – who are potential champions of Bojana basin sustainable development and environment protection: next to local partner MSJA, NGO Monitoring group Ulcinj (MogUI), Ulcinj fishermen association, NGO Ulcinj business association, Radio Ulcinj, Association of beach tenants, restaurants, houses on Bojana river, Mt. Club Rumija, Reborn by Adventure, NGO Green living, Ulcinj Museum, and many others.

Finally, after necessary preparation through creating and updating a relevant list, meetings and interviews, local stakeholders were included in the process

	<p>of study creation through two workshops we implemented. In the workshop, "Ecosystem based assessment of values and threats to the Bojana basin". Among other, the group worked on defining a vision and an approach for joint work towards area's conservation. In the other workshop with local SHs, "Actions for conservation of Bojana river basin", we initiated establishment of a non-formal local action group (LAG) involving potential champions included in the previous workshop.</p> <p>Finally, with local SHs we created an activity plan, for the group to act upon to achieve desired outcomes, with EnvPro collaboration and support, supported implementation and further development of the chosen activities.</p>
	<p><u>Three workshops</u> (Agenda, participants lists and report submitted with the report)</p> <p>Complementary to the all above, three workshops were prepared and deliver, with also often in-kind contribution of the EnvPro members.</p> <p>2nd and 3rd October (2020), 1st workshop, "Assessment of the Bojana basin for developing adaptive, ecosystem-based risk management, based on MARISCO methodology". With the preliminary broader research group, EnvPro hosted a workshop, led by Prof. Dr. Pierre Ibisch, to present the MARISCO methodology and conduct its 1st phase – determining the geographical scope of the project and team's motivation and vision for the area together with a research team.</p> <p>4th - 6th June (2021). 2nd workshop, "Ecosystem based assessment of values and threats to the Bojana basin". In this workshop, EnvPro gathered the broader research team and local SHs, both potential champions and representatives and local decision-makers. EnvPro and the research team presented the research area and results of data collection and project overall thus far, and together with local SHs identified MARISCO elements: ecosystems, ecosystem services and human wellbeing, ecological attributes, ecological stresses, drivers of stress and underlying causes, as well as the causal connections between them.</p> <p>18th and 19th December (2021), 3rd workshop, "Actions for conservation of Bojana river basin". In this workshop, EnvPro gathered potential local champions identified through earlier meetings and also 2nd workshop. Here, the group revised the MARISCO work previously done and then assessed current, past and future criticality of ecological stresses, drivers of stress and underlying causes, as well as manageability and available knowledge for solving identified drivers of stress. The group also created a list of solutions to</p>

	<p>drivers of stress, ranking them from least to most important, which formed a basis for agreeing on which actions the group can take further with EnvPro support and which project concept notes to develop jointly. Due to time limitation, prepared sessions on Local Action Groups (LAG) and advocacy were held only partly.</p>
	<p><u>Three concept notes:</u> i) <i>Local nature and economy uniqueness</i>; ii) <i>Bees' Lives Matter</i>, iii) <i>Local action: Halt deforestation in the Bojana river basin /catchment zone</i> (submitted with the report)</p> <p>In parallel to the development of the strategic directions, informal LAG and its action plan, 3 concept notes for identified solutions to the problems for which knowledge and capacities of SHs are assessed as to be sufficient, are formulated. These have been prioritized on the 3rd workshop, further elaborated by the EnvPro team, and shared to the informal LAG for comments, and upon finalized. LAG is to use them freely to apply to project calls or unsolicited agreements with donors, so far one (Halting Deforestation) put forward by MSJA and Mogul. These are, as follows:</p> <p>i) Local nature and economy uniqueness</p> <p>Overall objective: To contribute to enhanced local economic development of Ulcinj municipality based on enhanced natural capital and reduce threats. Specific objectives: a) To create innovative tourism package(s) that support enhancement of natural capital; b) To raise capacities to strategically assess opportunities and deliver innovative nature based tourism products and services.</p> <p>ii) Bees' Lives Matter</p> <p>Overall objective: To reverse the bee decline, and repair destructive agricultural practices. Specific objectives: a) To assess the level of bee populations and decline and causes for the decline; b) To raise knowledge and awareness on research, benefits and responsible practices that preserve the bee fund c) To perform activities to halt the extinction.</p> <p>iii) Local action: Halt deforestation in the Bojana river basin /catchment zone</p> <p>Overall objective: To preserve forests and maintain health of the Ulcinj surrounding. Specific objectives: a) To raise awareness on negative effects of deforestation and individual responsibilities to preserve the lungs of the town, b) To better monitor implementation of laws that ensure forests are kept protected and restored.</p>

LAG/local joint action implemented (supportive documentation submitted with this report (report on the action, visibility material, list of participants, etc.))

The purpose of this activity is to move away from mass tourism in the city of Ulcinj as one of the biggest threat identified through MARISCO assessment (that also underpin other threats such as: construction, noise and other disturbances, waste pollution, etc.) and create a sustainable tourist offer based on nature and community - ecotourism. With this goal, EnvPro supported an action (merging funds for two smaller, decided by consensus on the 3rd workshop held, within prioritization exercise) to valorize and revitalize the old road "Leqet e Millës - Ublat e Bolajve" - which connects the Anamal area with Arbnes, as a development of additional tourist offer, promotion of nature and rich heritage of this region and creating conditions for social coherence. The Action have succeeded to raise awareness, support joint intervention, and pilot local activity work on threats mitigation.

December (2021) – January (2022) The focus group consisted of 10 organizations, led by Rina Kovaci, who briefly presented the work of EnvPro on the project, as well as the purpose and outcomes of the 3rd workshop held earlier, decided to implement this action, in the premises of the MogUI organization. The detail plan for implementation with budget was developed, enabling signing of the agreement for implementation with MSJA, legally representing the group.

February – March (2022) Collection of information and work on the design and text of the brochure, shared with the members of the group, for opinions and suggestions; Meeting of the group was held on 15 February to review the design of the brochure and the text, which has been translated into three languages, Albanian, Montenegrin and English. In kind support was ensured by Tourist Organizations of Ulcinj on a meeting with Mr. Gezim Hajdinag, Director of the Ulcinj Tourist Organization, on February 18th (financing and printing the brochure). On February 21st meeting with the director of the Bar Tourist Organization, Mr. Kovač, and signing a sponsorship agreement happen. On February 23, the trail was explored with locals from the village of Mille, documented the condition of the trail with photographs. Professional photographs were needed for the final production of the information board and brochure and on February 24, a request for sponsorship was sent to the Ulcinj Tourist Organization and accepted. The presentation of the final version of the information board and brochure was submitted to the focus group on February 25, where the final proposals and remarks on the executive works were given.

	<p>March (2022), Following on the above, final version of the brochure and information board was formulated, and delivered to the TrioPro printing house; After several revisions together with the designer, final version was made and printed and glued to the metal frames; the brochure is made ready for printing in three languages. The organization of the cleaning action and re-marking of the trail was held on March 13, 2022. The action was published on social networks as an event created by Reborn by Adventures, with 20 people participating and complementing the activity was successful. The cleaning and re-marking of the trail is documented through photographs and videos. The information board was placed in two visible places, in the municipality of Ulcinj, at the end of the road to the village of Mide, near the Elementary School Krute and in the municipality of Bar, at the beginning of the road to the village of Bolaj. The board is set up to provide information on the old road "Leqet e Milles - Ublat e Bolajve"; The activities were also reflected on the local TV station Teuta, for the high local outreach.</p>
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6. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Major products of the project:

- Assessment method (submitted with the report).
- Study report: *The lower Bojana river basin and Ulcinj ecosystem complex: biodiversity, threats and strategies* (submitted with the report).
- Database application: *Bojana river and Ulcinj ecosystem open database (BRUOD)* (available at: <https://bruod.envpro.me>)

Other products are:

- Stakeholders engagement documents (submitted with the report and available in the Study (SHs list, questionnaire for the semi-structured interviews, etc.)).
- Blueprint for the database development (submitted with the report).
- Workshop materials (submitted with the report).
- Concept notes on selected priority activities (submitted with the report).
- Joint Action products (reports, visibility products (photos, videos, TV presentation, brochures, info table, reports and participants list), etc.).

PART III: Lessons, Sustainability, Safeguards and Financing

Lessons Learned

7. Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

“Lessons learned” are experiences you have gained that you think would be valuable successes worth replicating or practices that you would do differently if you had the chance. Consider lessons that would inform project design and implementation, and any other lessons relevant to the conservation community. CEPF Lessons Learned Guidelines are available here: <https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/cepf-lessons-learned-guidelines-english.pdf>.

The project was very ambitiously planned, recognized already in the Letter of inquiry. It included many aspects and challenges of the work: multi -stakeholder, -level, -sectors analyses and engagement, raising awareness and knowledge, contemporary scientific base/ assessment, demanding project area with scattered data, in the field implementation and delivery, management and coordination of the diverse team members and partners. This was set in a ‘scene’ of a CEPF small project support, limited project timeline, Covid pandemic. The Action was also led by young NGO with part time staff, sometimes no office or other logistic ensured. However, EnvPro's mission to apply modern scientific knowledge, build partnerships and networks, raise capacities and awareness, apply participative bottom-up approaches and empower stakeholders to use the benefits of nature conservation in Montenegro and the Balkan region, requires long term presence, endower and commitment, for which this project ensured essential and flagship start. With the experience attained we believe there is need to have larger projects for such concept, or to focus on one aspect within. Integrated management is very hard to be lifted up appropriately and sustainably with small projects. However, project implementation confirmed that the integrated approach, engaging wide front of SHs can bring necessary precondition for area's sustainable development. It creates potential for wide alliances, learning, leverage of aspirations and development of opportunities. However, it is a process and hard to be measured on a very tangible level. The benefits of it are to be continuously maintained and seen in the long run. The communication and understanding of the donor and persistence of the NGO lead are key for success here.

The nature of the project and the geographical area, as well as the identified problems themselves, made it clear that in this biologically and ecologically very valuable space, it is out of the question to plan or implement conservation without strong participation of the people. Very often ecologists work on the biodiversity conversation just addressing nature and challenges within. The absolute must in our case is to concentrate on people and to work with people.

On the aspect of **organizational and practical level**, maintaining long term support to these processes requires endeavour, and funding from implementing and donor organizations that share understanding of the long term processes and work needed. In this respect, there were no resources allocated for higher/ specific donor contribution, but EnvPro managed to developed it by its own in kind engagement. This is very exhausting; time and effort consuming and has to be conducted with demanding project implementation. This will in future be part of the project

design and support, furthering work on including private, public, and other sectors for resource mobilization and sustainability.

EnvPro finds **visibility segment** very important, yet still not well developed in this project and in the organisation. It is to be conducted in a structured, well targeted and monitored approach in order to achieve desired outcome on the most effective and efficient way. We believe also here, that scattered and not tailored nor follow thought activities of different organizations may be even harmful or not in potential to achieve desired outcome. This is often not measured, and projects are done with reporting on the visibility, but not the impact of it. Higher investment and attention is required for this to be well designed, implemented and monitored, for which so far EnvPro did not have capacities, nor resources.

Sustainability / Replication

8. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

Mid to long term next strategic steps are identified in the Study, at the presented below:

1. Feasibility analysis for the creation of a modern UNESCO biosphere reserve with special emphasis on the
2. Creation of governance structures that empower the relevant civil society and state institutions, as well as the
3. Concept for mobilizing the potential of ecosystem-based climate change adaptation and all nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation, which integrates ecosystem-based sectoral change opportunities, as well as enriched by the
4. Presentation of transnational cooperation and development opportunities.

In order to ensure **Action's sustainability** and support continuous, systematic work and development of the engaged, but also expand on the support front, EnvPro is implementing a transboundary project *Youth empowerment for Man and Biosphere reserve, Bojana/Buna delta*, supported by Ministry of science, education, culture and sport of Montenegro, National Commission for UNESCO, and UNESCO Participative programme), partnering with NGO Environmental center for Development Education and Networking - EDEN center from Albania and ensuring generous project and in kind support of the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development. Project is already raising lots of interest and is outreaching project results. The aim is creating demand and capacities for UNESCO trans boundary MAB BR designation in Bojana/Buna river basin, as future extension to the Lake Skadar/Shkodra protected area.

EnvPro also led development and submission of a large project *Skadar/Shkoder Lake Watershed - a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (approx.. 400000EUR, 3years duration)*, to the EU Delegation (Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Montenegro - Albania 2014-2020 under the Instrument

for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II)) ensuring partnership with NGO EDEN from Albania (assigned as lead), National Parks of Montenegro, Protected Area National Agency from Albania. The support was also ensured in project associates capacity by Ministries of ecology, National Commission for UNESCO and Environmental Protection Agencies of two countries, Montenegro and Albania. The project proposal is assess in two stages process: Concept Note submission was successful, and Full application has been handed over in July. We are expecting response by the end of 2022.

In parallel to the project implementation, EnvPro has developed its own Strategic plan 2022-2025, supported by the European Union Program for Technical Assistance to Civil Society in the Western Balkans and Turkey (TACSO 3).

Safeguards

- 9. If not listed as a separate Deliverable and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social or environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered.**

N/A as project did not trigger any safeguards.

Additional Funding

- 10. Provide details of any additional funding that you have secured to support this project.**

- a. Total additional funding (US\$)**

1000 US\$

- b. Type of funding**

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source.

Donor	Type of Funding	Amount
EnvPro	Grant for design of the Study report	400US\$
TO Bar and Ulcinj	Grant for brochure print	600EUR

In kind contribution to the project has been provided along the implementation, in terms of time and expertise investment of the EnvPro staff that was much greater than the project could fund. Also, other partners have been providing for the engagement that exceeded their contractual arrangements.

Synergies and support of other projects, and initiatives have been seized and captured in the description of the deliverables and sustainability.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

11. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF.

CEPF has provided initial and essential support to the EnvPro, providing for the work toward the vision, mission, without which presence in the area and **organizational development** would not be made possible, or not in this pace.

However, for the integrated approach EnvPro is dedicated to, long-term strong further strategic partnerships and support of conservation organizations is needed. This is especially important for setting good examples on nature protection area designation process, establishment of new protected areas, also including transboundary/international designation and sustainable development de jure and de facto – EnvPro is dedicated to. The core functioning, but also a challenge on this path is to grow further as specialized, knowledgeable and independent organization. Stronger donor’s phasing out support would be very beneficial to the partners such as EnvPro, in a climate where conservation funding is very limited, especially in the long-term framework.

PART IV: Impact at Portfolio and Global Level

Contribution to Portfolio Indicators

- 12.** In order to measure the results of CEPF investment strategy at the hotspot level, CEPF uses a set of Portfolio Indicators which are presented in the Ecosystem Profile of each hotspot. Please list these below and report on the project’s contribution(s) to them.

Indicator	Actual Numeric Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
2.2 Number of Communities in Catchment Zones receiving economic benefits from adopting biodiversity-friendly practices	1	Community in Ulcinj-More than 20 people participated in joint local action which is to create economic benefits for the local population, and directly to small tourism organizations /entrepreneurs from the area. To be assessed in ex- post phase of the project. However, likelihood of community benefiting from the implemented local action described in this report is high.
2.4 Number of Freshwater	1	KBA Delta Bojane (CMZ Lower Bojana river basin)

KBAs in priority CMZ with improved information on biodiversity, shared with stakeholders		The participative research on values and threats have been performed, captured in the Study report and database.
5.3 Number of cross-border networking relationship	2	<p>University Eberswalde from Germany, Center for Econics and Ecosystem Management, and other departments and representatives - Partnership that NGO EnvPro established during the project and is lasting after project completion. More info is provided through the report.</p> <p>2 Informal youth clubs- Through the UNESCO (mention in Section 8, project 2 informal youth clubs were established with the aim to establish collaboration on protection of Buna biosphere between Montenegro and Alnania. More information can be found on the following link https://togetherforbuna.adriaweb.me/2022/07/02/lets-unite-for-buna/</p>

Contribution to Global Indicators

Please report on all Global Indicators that pertain to your project.

13. Benefits to Individuals

13a. Number of men and women receiving structured training.

Report on the number of men and women that have benefited from structured training due to your project, such as financial management, beekeeping, horticulture, farming, biological surveys, or how to conduct a patrol.

# of men receiving structured training *	# of women receiving structured training *	Topic(s) of Training
3	6	1 st WSH: Assessment of the Bojana basin for developing adaptive, ecosystem-based, risk management based on MARISCO methodology

7	11	2 nd WSH: Ecosystem based assessment of values and threats to the Bojana basin
2	8	3 rd WSH: Actions for protection of Bojana Basin extended area
9	19	Total no of structured workshops/ trainings

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received structured training in beekeeping, and 3 of these also received structured training in project management, the total number of men who benefited from structured training should be 5.*

13b. Number of men and women receiving cash benefits.

Report on the number of men and women that had an increase in income or cash (monetary) benefits due to your project from activities such as tourism, handicraft production, increased farm output, increased fishery output, medicinal plant harvest, or payment for conducting patrols.

# of men receiving cash benefits*	# of women receiving cash benefits*	Description of Benefits
N/A	N/A	N/A

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received cash benefits due to tourism, and 3 of these also received cash benefits from increased income due to handicrafts, the total number of men who received cash benefits should be 5.*

14. Protected Areas

Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

Report on the number of hectares of protected areas that have been created or expanded as a result of your project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of PA*	Country(s)	Original # of Hectares**	# of Hectares Newly Protected	Year of Legal Declaration/ Expansion	Longitude***	Latitude***
N/A						

** If possible please provide a shape file of the protected area to CEPF.*

*** Enter the original total size, excluding the results of your project. If the protected area was not existing before your project, then enter zero.*

**** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456). To obtain the latitude and longitude of your protected area, use googlemap, right click on the center of your protected area, and select "What's here?", and copy the latitude and longitude appearing in the popup window.*

15. Key Biodiversity Area Management

Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) with improved management

Report on the number of hectares in KBAs with improved management, where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation, as a result of your project. Examples of improved management include, but are not restricted to: increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices. Do not record the entire area covered by the project - only record the number of hectares that have improved management.

If you have recorded part or all of a KBA as newly protected for the indicator entitled "protected areas", and you have also improved its management, you should record the relevant number of hectares for both this indicator and the "protected areas" indicator.

Name of KBA	KBA Code from Ecosystem Profile	# of Hectares Improved *
Bojana Delta	MNE03	/

** Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were improved due to implementation of a fire management regime in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were improved due to invasive species removal in the second year, the total number of hectares with improved management would be 500.*

16. Production landscapes

Number of hectares of production landscape with strengthened management of biodiversity

Please report on the number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity, as a result of your project. A production landscape is defined as a landscape where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

- For an area to be considered as having "strengthened management of biodiversity," it can benefit from a wide range of interventions such as best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified, and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.

- Areas that are protected are not included under this indicator, because their hectares are counted elsewhere.
- A Production Landscape can include part or all of an unprotected KBA.

Name of Production Landscape*	# of Hectares with Strengthened Management**	Latitude***	Longitude***	Description of Intervention
N/A				

* If the production landscape does not have a name, provide a brief descriptive name for the landscape.

**Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were strengthened due to certification in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were strengthened due to new harvesting regulations in the second year, the total number of hectares strengthened to date would be 500.

*** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456). To obtain the latitude and longitude of your production landscape, use googlemap, right click on the center of your production landscape, and select "What's here?", and copy the latitude and longitude appearing in the popup window.

17. Benefits to Communities

CEPF wants to record the non-cash benefits received by communities, which can differ to those received by individuals because the benefits are available to a group. CEPF also wants to record, to the extent possible, the number of people within each community who are benefiting. Please report on the characteristics of the communities, the type of benefits that have been received during the project, and the number of men/boys and women/girls from these communities that have benefited, as a result of your project. If exact numbers are not known, please provide an estimate.

Please provide information for all communities that have benefited from project start to project completion.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics (mark with x)						Country of Community	Type of Benefit (mark with x)							# of Beneficiaries				
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*		Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services	# of men and boys benefiting	# of women and girls benefiting

Ulcinj community ²	x	x				x									x		x	50	50
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*If you marked "Other" to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

² The work conducted within participative ecosystem approach, raised knowledge, awareness and understanding on human wellbeing connected to ecosystem services and biodiversity elements within group of SHs we worked with. Together, we considered opportunities to halt their depletion and produced 3 concept notes and implemented one LAG activity based on the priority analyses. This all is likely to have influence on how biodiversity is treated with SHs we reached but also increase some opportunities of using ecosystem services and sharing benefits of it in wider community (nature-cultural route maintenance and promotion of sustainable development, landscape, local pride, alternative tourism, and social cohesion). However, the effects of all the activates and # of affected people outside of the project timeline are still to be seen and proven, what is introduced with our next steps and work in the area.

18. Policies, Laws and Regulations

Report on policies, laws and regulations with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended, as a result of your project. “Policies” pertain to statements of intent formally adopted or pursued by a government, including at sectoral or sub-national level. “Laws and regulations” pertain to official rules or orders, prescribed by authority. Any law, regulation, decree or order is eligible to be included.

18a. Name, scope and topic of the policy, law or regulation that has been amended or enacted as a result of your project

No.	Name of Law, Policy or Regulation	Scope (mark with x)			Topic(s) addressed (mark with x)															
		Local	National	International	Agriculture	Climate	Ecosystem Management	Education	Energy	Fisheries	Forestry	Mining and Quarrying	Planning/Zoning	Pollution	Protected Areas	Species Protection	Tourism	Transportation	Wildlife Trade	Other*
1	N/A																			
2																				
...																				

* If you selected “other”, please give a brief description of the main topics addressed by the policy, law or regulation.

18b. For each law, policy or regulation listed above, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

No.	Country(s)	Date enacted/ amended MM/DD/YYYY	Expected impact	Action that you performed to achieve this change
1				
2				
3				

19. Biodiversity-friendly Practices

Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

Please list any companies that have adopted biodiversity-friendly practices as a result of your project. While companies take various forms, for the purposes of CEPF, a company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

No.	Name of Company	Description of biodiversity-friendly practice adopted during the project	Country(s) where the practice has been adopted by the company
1	Reborn by Adventure – soon to be registered	Non-massive tourism product development, making and promoting a trail in the hinterland of Ulcinj area to increase awareness, knowledge and benefits from the cultural-historical and natural wealth and use it for nature friendly tourism activities. (for more details, see info on LAG/ local joint activity). Expected is that larger community and more organizations benefit from this.	Montenegro

20. Networks & Partnerships

Number of networks and/or partnerships created and/or strengthened

Report on any networks or partnerships between and among civil society groups and other sectors that you have created or strengthened as a result of your project. Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable. Examples of networks/partnerships include: an alliance of fisherfolk to promote sustainable fisheries practices, a network of environmental journalists, a partnership between one or more NGOs with one or more private sector partners to improve biodiversity management on private lands, or a working group focusing on reptile conservation.

Do not list the partnerships you formed with others to implement this project, unless these partnerships will continue after your project ends.

No.	Name of Network / Partnership	Year established	Did your project establish this	Country(s) covered	Purpose
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			Network/ Partnership? Y/N		
1	University Eberswalde from Germany, Center for Economics and Ecosystem Management, and other departments and representatives	2020	Y	Montenegro, and after project finalization also Albania	Partnership that NGO EnvPro established during the project and is lasting after project completion Technical support to contemporary methods in assessments and management of ecosystems, and establishment of new protected areas.
2	Representatives of soon to be formalized Reborn by Adventure organization.	2021	Y	Montenegro	Partnership that NGO EnvPro established during the project and is lasting after project completion Awareness raising, networking, visibility and implementation of the sustainable development practices in the project area, supporting social cohesion and joint Actions.
3.	Informal LAG (Local Action Group)	2022	Y	Montenegro	Bottom up strategic planning of the area and social cohesion.
4.	2 Informal youth clubs	2022	Y	Montenegro and Albania	Raising understanding and empowerment for transboundary nature protection, learning and sustainable development youth leadership under the concept of UNESCO MAB BR for Buna/Bojana Basin.

21. Sustainable Financing Mechanism

List any functioning sustainable financing mechanisms created or supported by your project. Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include,

but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem service (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation. To be included, a mechanism must be delivering funds for conservation.

N/A

21a. Details about the mechanism

No.	Name of Financing Mechanism	Purpose of the Mechanism*	Date of Establishment**	Description***	Countries
1					
2					
3					

*Please provide a succinct description of the mission of the mechanism.

**Please indicate when the sustainable financing mechanism was officially created. If you do not know the exact date, provide a best estimate.

***Description, such as trust fund, endowment, PES scheme, incentive scheme, etc.

21b. Performance of the mechanism

For each Financing Mechanism listed previously, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

NO.	Project intervention (mark with x)			Has the mechanism disbursed funds to conservation projects?
	Created a mechanism	Supported an existing mechanism	Created and supported a new mechanism	
1				
2				
3				

N/A

22. Red List Species

If the project included direct conservation interventions that benefited globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU), as per the IUCN Red List, add the species below.

Examples of interventions include: preparation or implementation of a conservation action plan, captive breeding programs, species habitat protection, species monitoring, patrolling to halt wildlife trafficking, and removal of invasive species.

Genus	Species	Common Name (Eng)	Status (VU, EN, CR or Extinct in the Wild)	Intervention	Population Trend at Site (increasing, decreasing, stable or unknown)

N/A

Part V. Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final completion and impact reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our e-newsletter and other communications.

Provide the contact details of your organization (organization name and generic email address) so that interested parties can request further information about your project.

Organization Name: Environment Programme - EnvPro

Generic email address: office@envpro.me