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: **Montenegrin Ecologists Society**
Project Title: **From the inventory of monumental Skadar pedunculate oak trees to restoration of its forests and protection of biodiversity**
Grant Number: **110860**
Date of Completion of this Report: **30th June 2022**
CEPF Hotspot: **Mediterranean basin hotspot**
Strategic Direction: **SD 4 Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges**
Grant Amount: **36.025,00 USD**
Actual Expenditure: **35.834,49 USD**
Project Dates: **01.07.2020. - 31.05.2022.**

PART I: Overview

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

Project did not have partners, however, it did engaged various stakeholders:

- Local communities, mostly in Danilovgrad municipality, but also in Podgorica and Ulcinj - they were first introduced to the project and to the Skadar Pedunculate oak tree species that lives in their region. Then, they were invited to join the actions of collecting acorns, raising and planting trees. Many of them adopted acorns and / or young trees and planted them in their own yards or gave them back to us for our planting actions. Some of them already had Skadar oak tree in their surroundings, so they gave us valuable information about the presence of the trees, they collected seeds for and / or with us and helped us in the aim to save some skadar oak trees (Tree in Tomaševići, and trees along the road that is under construction).

- Local authorities of the Municipalities of Danilovgrad, Podgorica and Ulcinj - they were introduced to the project, its activities and goals. On the meetings they recognized the importance of this species and the project, but we had the most collaboration with Danilovgrad municipality. Nevertheless, a lot more meetings and raising capacities and knowledge in this municipality is needed because, even though they did recognise the importance and uniqueness of this species and the importance of the Danilovgrad area for this species, they are still not used to making decisions in favour to the tree, but need reminders and push from us in order to really adapt certain project so that they do not influence this species in negative way, and so that these projects actually support and value the presence of the tree species and requirements for their living, space and revitalization.

- Elementary and high schools and kindergartens in Danilovgrad, Podgorica and Ulcinj - The collaboration with, and educational activities held within these institutions was one of the most important and fruitful activities of the project. We cannot describe the effect the Skadar oak movie had on the children and students, but also the very act of touching and seeing the acorn for the first time as a seed that holds all of the strength to become huge tree some day. Educational activities consisted of indoors presentations, outdoors planting actions and educational walks, as well as of the 4 day long camp in nature for children.

- Students of the Faculty of Biology - young botanists - the project was presented to the students of the Faculty of Biology. Some students became interested in the subject and were volunteering in the activities of collecting and planting acorns, raising and planting trees, but some of them were part of the phytocenology and trainings about reforestation held during this project.

- Agency for Environmental protection - recognized the value of the project, and decided to support MES with additional funding to conduct more phytocenology research in the Skadar pedunculate oak areal in Montenegro

- Ministry of Ecology and Spatial planning - were introduced to the project, but had no additional involvement in it, until the Ozelenimo Crnu Goru initiative was presented to them, which they supported immediately.

- NGOs - NGO EcoLogic, which took 500 skadar oaks to raise, and helped MES in preparing educational material for children. NGO Center for protection and research of birds (CZIP) took several young skadar oaks to give them as a present to the schools in one of their raising awareness about recycling games. NGO MSJA - collaborated during the organisation of the educational workshops in Ulcinj, and went to the fieldwork together. NGO Forest bathing organised an online giveaway where the present was a young Skadar pedunculate oak tree

- Media Different subjects from traditional media were interested in the project activities, and supported us in spreading awareness and knowledge about the project activities, goals and information about skadar oak tree throughout Montenegro.

2. Summarize the overall results of your project

Our project was about revitalizing forests of the Skadar Pedunculate oak tree (*Quercus robur ssp scutariensis*), that is endemic pedunculate oak subspecies which lives around rivers and Skadar lake from Danilovgrad to Ulcinj (and on the other side of Bojana river in Albania). These once huge forests have been severely degraded, and now are in a survival mode in the form of individual trees, tree lines, or rarely small forest patches.

During this project MES has worked on several fronts regarding skadar oak forests. On the one side the areal of skadar oak in Montenegro was researched while looking for the trees that produced acorns, especially monumental trees. Around 20.000 acorns were collected, mainly in Bjelopavlićka valley, but also near Skadar lake. Populations of skadar oak in Ulcinj didn't produce seeds that or the next year. These acorns were planted during many planting actions in the MES nursery, but many have been adopted by locals, who planted them in their own yards. A bit less than 8.000 young skadar oaks were raised and planted: on the parcels of the locals, in their yards, in the school, kindergarten or the yards of some companies all over Bjelopavlići and the surroundings of the Skadar lake.

On the other side, MES has conducted phytocenology research in the remainings of these forests, in all known skadar oak associations. Three different associations were described, one of them described for the first time. One of the results of the research is *The map* of the Skadar oak areal in Montenegro, with marked territories where the oak once lived, and where people could help revitalizing its forests in different ways.

The final result of the project much raised awareness about skadar oak, about the importance of its forests for both nature and humans (since those two are inseparable). Short animated movie *The Oak* was released (link to video HERE), publication *Oaks of Montenegro* has been created together with the *Protocol for acorn germination and raising young oak trees*; educational workshops were organised, mainly for children and their teachers, and the 4 day long camp in nature for children was the final activity of the project, where children had the opportunity to learn about the oak forests, but also about all different biodiversity categories connected with them and about the ecosystem services they provide.

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**

1. Revitalisation of the skadar oak forest habitats in the 4 KBA, while raising awareness and activating local communities	- Around 20.000 acorns were collected and planted for raising into young seedlings, many of them were adopted by locals in 3 KBAs: MNE 13 – Skadarsko jezero (Skadar lake); MNE 11 – Dolina Zete (Zeta river valley) MNE 03 – Delta Bojane (Bojana river delta) The plan was to cover also Buljarica (MNE 01) with this project, but after fieldwork research the oaks found there were not classified as Skadar oaks, so it was excluded from the activities for now. - While collecting acorns, informal meetings with locals were organised in order to explain the methodology and the aim of the action - Meetings with municipalities Danilovgrad and Podgorica were held in order to raise their knowledge and awareness about the importance of the forests that our only nationally protected oak builds, as well as about the critical situation these forests are facing, in order to gain their support in revitalising the forests and connecting them with humans as in the old times - Outdoor and indoor educational workshops were organised in local schools, in order to introduce children from the young age to these oaks and its habitats - 4 day long educational camp in nature for children was organised - Short animated movie was made about the importance of oaks and what can we as communities and individuals do to protect them - Publication ”Oaks of Montenegro” was made, that explains the importance of Skadar oak forests, the results of our phytocenology research in these forests, as well as introduces readers to the other oaks that live in Montenegro. Annexes to the publication are: the “Protocol for acorn germination and raising young oak trees” and the poster “Oaks of Montenegro”. This publication with its annexes represents the foundation of the understanding of the oak forests in MNE (and surrounding countries), and have all the necessary information for individual or collective planting actions - which is how it directly contributes to the revitalisation of the oak habitats. In fact, MES is one of the three founders of the biggest green initiatives in Montenegro - Ozelenimo Crnu Goru (Let’s make Montenegro green), whose goal is to conduct reforestation in degraded areas and symbolically raise 600.000 young trees per year (one for every MNE citizen). The focus species are both species MES worked hard to raise awareness and knowledge about -Skadar pedunculate oak tree (but also all of the other oaks as well, since different oak species can be found in every region of Montenegro) and Bosnian pine.
	The initiative brings together interested citizens with whom we have already shared, and will continue to share, our material produced during this project. Link to Facebook page and publications: https://www.facebook.com/drustvoekologa/posts/pfbid02o9zJihEVDfFo7ZoWJ7XGb2sEfh4L3gUzejcUTJr2a9UYFtHpAAC6jPWgZGt2u9r4l

2. Starting the initiative of proclaiming the old, representative trees Monuments of Nature, with raised awareness of general public about their importance	We have walked through all of the skadar oak habitats that we knew of. There are a lot of old skadar oak trees, but not too old.. Neverthless, we have chosen two oaks that we will propose to the Municipality of Danilovgrad to make the initiative to protect them. These are both oaks that are not ancient, but are in special ways connected with people: 1. Oak in Tomaševići is the oak that, with the help of local people, MES managed to save from the road reconstruction process, so that the Investitor decided not to cut it and to adapt the road to the needs of the tree. 2. Oak in Podglavice is the huge oak that locals built stone wall around, in order to save it from the strength of Zeta river that threatened to erode the land and remove the oak from its place. After our proposal initiative, it will be up to Municipality to continue the initiative and propose these two trees for the protection procedure, which should be met with good reactions, since both trees are in the Nature Park Zeta river, and would contribute to its value.

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

Impact Description	**Impact Summary**

1. To provide an expert basis for the protection of Skadar oak in the 4 selected KBA (MNE 13 - Skadar lake, MNE 11 - Zeta valley, MNE 03 - Bojana delta, MNE 01 - Buljarica), at the same time to develop the capacities of the organisation in the field of dendrology, botany and phytocenology	Three trainings were organised in order to raise capacities of the young research that can contribute to the revitalisation of the forests. Trainings were about: the skadar oak forests habitat, conducting phytocenology research, seed germination and raising young oak trees and geo - information systems, in the terms of plant research. Indicators: 1. *By establishing primary database for Skadar oak distribution. Database will contain basic information (locality, number of trees, their status, who owns the parcel, surface area, threats). Map will be made for skadar oak distribution.* This indicator was partially fulfilled - It was too ambitious for us to map every tree in the areal, so we concentrated on the ones that produced acorns and the ones that were the most threatened. Instead, we decided to do the modeling for the areal of skadar oak tree and have produced the map with the defined areal in Montenegro, while at the same time describing all of the plant associations in the areal and produced the recommendations for the revitalisation and protection of these forests. The map now clearly shows the areal, as well as the places in the areal that are perfect for the different revitalisation techniques. This activity results in establishing scientific basis for the revitalisation of Skadar pedunculate oak forests in Montenegro. The activity is done in 3 KBAS: MNE 13 – Skadarsko jezero (Skadar lake); MNE 11 – Dolina Zete (Zeta river valley) MNE 03 – Delta Bojane (Bojana river delta) 2. *Botanical knowledge of minimum two MES staff and 2 students will be enrichened*. The expert for phytocenology research Đorđije Milanović was engaged in order to raise capacities of the young researchers and to conduct research in the skadar oak forests. 9 young researchers, including MES researchers (three MES staff)), participated in the training about phytocenology. Additional 6 researchers were educated about the skadar oak habitat mapping, during the fieldwork part of the training (in total 15). 3. *Number of old, representative trees recorded in MNE 11 - Zeta river valley and MNE 13 - Skadar lake KBA.* 15 older trees were recorded, one old tree was saved during the road reconstructions, 7 more are being saved during the other road reconstruction. Two trees are being recommended to the Danilovgrad municipality to become Monuments of nature.

2. Decision makers, managers, locals, land owners recognize the importance of preserving the Skadar oak, the problem of managing and maintaining their population and they are ready to initiate actions for their revitalisation	Series of meetings were organised with Municipalities of Danilovgrad and Podgorica, Ministry of Ecology, Agency for environment protection, and local communities. But the most successful was the media campaign that really did raise awareness and inspired many locals to contact us and join the action. Indicators: 1. *The number of planted Skadar oak trees on the private and state land*. **A bit less than 8.000 young skadar oaks were raised and planted, mostly in the private land of the locals: on the parcels of the locals, in their yards, and a bit smaller amount on the state land: in the school, kindergarten yards, parks, or the yards of some companies (like property of Aeroports of Montenegro) all over Danilovgrad and Podgorica.** 2. *Number of trees that are raised and planted by locals*. **Around 3.000 oaks were raised by locals from acorns to trees, and planted directly by them. Around 2.000 more were adopted by locals and planted in their property.** *3. Management of protected areas will include in their programs some type of obligation for stopping Oak forest cutting inside protected areas.* ***Danilovgrad Municipality, as a protection measure for the development of some projects, is proposing planting Skadar oak trees in the unoccupied parts of the parcels of the project areas (example of the Decision is sent as an attachment to the email, can be downloaded from the DG Municipality website). Unfortunately, management plan for the Nature park Zeta River has not been made yet, but the draft of the plan is in preparation, where there is a section for measures dedicated to the revitalisation of skadar oak trees in the Nature park.*** ***MES has managed to push Danilovgrad municipality to change the local road reconstruction plan so that it is adapted to the 7 skadar oak trees that would otherwise be cut down. The same happened with the reconstruction of the regional Podgorica - Danilovgrad road reconstruction where one skadar oak tree was saved from cutting, and the road was adapted to the tree.***

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

- The Agency of Environment Protection (EPA) had recognised the importance of the action, and decided to support MES in the further phytocenology research.

- Traffic administration (Ministry of Capital investments) has agreed to save the tree during reconstruction and adapt the construction of the road to one oak tree. (waiting for the decision of the Danilovgrad municipality on two more initiatives - saving tree line of skadar oaks during other road reconstruction, and initiating protection of two skadar oak trees as monuments of nature) Seven more skadar oak trees and the treeline that consists of other tree species is being saved in a way that a plan for the different road is being adapted to the life of these trees

- We didn't expect such huge engagement from the local communities and interested individuals.

- Aeroports of Montenegro decided to plant skadar oak trees in the yard of Podgorica airport.

- Trees in Ulcinj didn't produce acorns these years, but this is ecological oak characteristic, which then gave us space and time to focus on Bjelopavlića valley the most.

- MES is one of the three founders of the new, but already one of the biggest green initiatives in Montenegro - ***Ozelenimo Crnu Goru*** (*Let's make Montenegro green:* https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086261056445), whose goal is to conduct reforestation in degraded areas and symbolically raise 600.000 young trees per year (one for every MNE citizen). The focus species are both species MES worked hard to raise awareness and knowledge about -Skadar pedunculate oak tree (but then also all of the other oaks as well, since different oak species can be found in every region of Montenegro) and Bosnian pine tree. MES members are in the main body of this initiative, as well as coordinators of different teams within the initiative such as: Research team, Seed bank team, Educational and Creative team, as well as in the advisory team, together with experts who supervised MES in phytocenology and acorn raising activities of this project.

- Adriatic bank recognised our efforts and decided to make a small donation to MES and support us in collecting more Skadar oak acorns and raising more trees:
https://www.facebook.com/AdriaticBank/posts/pfbid03vdnNsAzDQ8rqM1pHoCd54fsmzKwebrCeakLSjTvxaeY5uXdbDBWDoeFNnpwG9aul

- The action about Skadar oak tree was recognized amongst other NGOs who decided to present the oak in their activities and make it as a present in their own public giveaways and similar actions.

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
	1. Built science base of Skadar oak area reconstruction with min 4 newly trained people *Indicators*: Done inventarisation of its habitat types and assotiations Skadar oak	Inventory of the old trees has been made (it turns out they are not that old as they are important for the locals), and the Initiative will be sent to the Municipality in Autumn 2022, which has a main role in proposing the tree for the protection. Phytocenology research has been done in different locations in Bjelopavlići, around Skadar lake and in Delta Bojana area. The result of the research is the map of the Skadar oak areal in Montenegro, with marked territories where the oak once lived, and where people could help revitalising its forests in different ways. Three plant associations were described, one of them wasn't described until now. The research produced the List of recommendations for the conservation and the revitalisation of Skadar oak forests, that was sent to the Municipality of Danilovgrad, as well as to the Agency for environment protection. Document: https://drustvoekologa.me/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Izvjestaj_DM_23022022.pdf

		Nine young researchers (including MES researchers) participated in the training about phytocenology, as well as in the training about seed germination held by professors from the Faculty of Forestry from Banja Luka, BiH. Since the practical part of the phytocenology research was connected with the EPA training of the researchers for Natura 2000 habitat mapping, we had around 15 young researchers learning about Skadar oak habitat in the fieldwork. One of them is now working for MES on the new small project about Skadar oak, whose main purpose is to continue the phytocenology research. Nine young researchers and two employees of Environment protection agency participated in the training about geo - information systems, in the terms of plant resarch.

	2. Raised awareness about Skadar oak. importance between parcel owners, pupils of local schools… *Indicators*: Minimum 5 owners accepted to have a small nursery on their land; Short aftereducative actions for pupils, we will organise day event where they will show us in some creative ways what they have learned, and their own germinating seed	Locals and landowners, as well as owners of trees that were assessed as monumental were acquainted in detail with the activities and objectives of the project, after which they gained a better awareness of the importance of their role in protection, management and restoration of this species. At the same time, children from primary schools belonging to the subject KBA, through educational and practical activities, are familiar with the importance of this species and its habitats and ecosystems, which will participate in a small but important percentage in collecting, germinating seeds, raising young trees and planting, together with their teachers and parent. We had met with manylocals during the implementation of this project. Mostly in the phase of looking for skadar oaks and collecting their acorns, but then also in the later phases of the project such as acorn planting and raising young trees, since our media campaign reached a lot of people who became interested and joined our action. Whenever we met with locals we would explain the uniquness and importance of the skadar oak, and listen to their stories about how are they connected to these forests. We organised series of educational workshops and planting actions in elementary schools and kindergardens in Podgorica, Spuž, Danilovgrad and Ulcinj. We organised educative camp in nature for children in Danilovgrad. We also made educative short animated movie, that was emitted on the local TV and on social media, and played to the children in the schools.
		Five locals did agree to make a small nursery: Dragana (100 oaks), Poka (400), Nikola (200), Aco (500), Darko (200). But many more individuals took the oaks to raise them, some of them kept the oaks, but some gave them back when it was planting season, or gave them to the other locals in their villages. In MES land a bit more than 5.000 was planted and raised.

	3. Gained collaboration between management bodies of protected areas and decision makers *Indicators*: Defined area within protected areas meant for reforestation, and Old trees database updated, which are candidates for Monument of Nature proclamation	Cooperation was established with Podgorica and Danilovgrad municipality. But in the end we didn't plant oaks in one large plot of land, since all of the oaks had been given out to the people, and we organised planting actions when someone wanted to plant a lot of oaks instead. Planting actions were organised in school and kindergarden yards as well, as well as in the yard of the Aeroport company in Podgorica, where 70 oaks were planted together with children from Danilovgrad. Publication with all of the data and information will be submitted to EPA, as well as geo-referenced data gotten throughought the project.
	4. Forest revitalisation itself *Indicators*: 10.000 young Skadar oak trees planted on 10 - 20 ha of land	Around 20.000 acorns were collected, mainly in Bjelopavlićka valley, but also near Skadar lake. Populations of skadar oak in Ulcinj didn't produce seeds that or the next year. These acorns were planted during many planting actions in the MES nursery, but many have been adopted by locals, who planted them in their own yards. A bit less than 8.000 young skadar oaks were raised and planted: on the parcels of the locals, in their yards, in the school, kindergarten or the yards of some companies all over Bjelopavlići and the surroundings of the Skadar lake. In total, around 15ha was covered with young skadar oak trees.

6. **Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.**

- **Short animated movie "The Oak" in English and Montenegrin:** https://drustvoekologa.me/short-animated-movie-oak/
- **Publication "Oaks of Montenegro" with the annexes - Protocol for germination and Poster "Oaks of Montenegro":**
  Publication "Oaks of Montenegro": https://drustvoekologa.me/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/WEB_studija-hrast-5.10.pdf
- **Protocol for acorn germination and raising young oaks:** https://drustvoekologa.me/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/WEB_protokol-zir_a5-3.pdf
- **Poster "Oaks of Montenegro":** https://drustvoekologa.me/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/PRINT_poster-hrast-26.9.pdf
- **Sticker pack for Telegram app:** https://t.me/addstickers/hRastimo **and Viber app:** https://stickers.viber.com/pages/custom-sticker-packs/11ec949ba30b50baa3d6e76726a24a887b9761b3ffc07e2f
- **Report: Phytocenology research, defininf the areal and potential areal, as well as the recommendations for the protection and revitalisation of the forests of the skadar oak (*Quercus robur* ssp. *scutariensis* Černjavski 1949) (this is part of the publication, but is valuable as an independent document as well)** https://drustvoekologa.me/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Izvjestaj_DM_23022022.pdf

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.**

- Local communities really are waiting for the healthy initiatives, ready to join and contribute to them. Its not that the communities are apathetic, but the initiatives are missing.

- If we were to write other project like this we would choose to raise less number of trees, since 10.000 young oaks was a big bite for us in this moment, and we would conduct other project activities and other projects more holistically if we made a smaller planting goal. Nevertheless, this project and other MES project about *Pinus heldreichii* species was one of the main inspirations for a birth of the huge national citizen initiative about planting trees, whose plan is to make a mechanism that will be able to plant 600.000 trees per year in Montenegro (symbolically, a tree per MNE citizen), so we say that the good ideas and enthusiasm always pay off

- Amongst public companies there are the ones who want to conduct green initiatives and responsible actions: so MES got a donation of several trucks of soil from one company, and was called to organize planting actions in the yards of others.

- A perfect combination for winning in the game of protection single tree or a treeline is in using all of the available official channels of communication, but to not forget the impact a story from social and traditional media can have on the decision makers.

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.**

- Tree by itself is sustainable - It will grow over the years and produce acorns for many more trees to come. Around 8.000 trees skadar oak trees were planted during this project

- Short animated movie will be available forever, s well as *Oaks of Montenegro* publication, with its poster and *Protocol for seed germination.*

- The experience and knowledge children have learned during workshops and camp are as planted seeds that have the potential to once induce their interest in nature protection.

- MES has gotten the funds to continue the phytocenology research in the skadar oak forests, as well as a donation for collecting additional acorns and raising additional young skadar oak trees.

- Traffic administration (Ministry of Capital investments) has agreed to save the tree during reconstruction and adapt the construction of the road to one oak tree (waiting for the decision of the Danilovgrad municipality on two more initiatives - saving tree line of skadar oaks during other road reconstruction, and initiating protection of two skadar oak trees as monuments of nature)

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.**

In the beginning and at the end of the project the Process Framework Safeguard was completed, referring to the Involuntary Resettlement Safeguard. During the activities of trying to protect 7 Skadar oak trees during the reconstruction of the local road, MES had followed all of the official activities and communicated with official institutions responsible for the situation. First, MES made a series of meetings with Danilovgrad municipality, who communicated with the Investor

and contractor. Then, because of no answer, MES made contact directly with contractor, and made meetings in front of the oaks to show the contractor the problematic route and to try to find a solution. Then MES informed Environmental Protection Agency about the issue, since skadar oak trees planned to be cut down belong to the species protected by law in Montenegro, but also are in the protected area Nature park Zeta river. MES used all possible official channels of communication, but also used media as a way to push Municipality of Danilovgrad, Investor and Contractor to take this matter seriously (which worked for now). MES even managed to save one treeline of other oak species in this route of the road (for now). Because of these activities of MES, Danilovgrad municipality now needs to change the plan of the road reconstruction and adapt it to these 7 skadar oak trees.
There were no complaints.

Additional Funding

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

    a. **Total additional funding (US$)**
       3.500
    b. **Type of funding**

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

Donor	Type of Funding	Amount
Environment Protection Agency of Montenegro	cash - to conduct detailed phytocenology research	3.000
Adriatic bank	cash - donation for raising young skadar oak trees	500

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

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
2.0 Number of hectares of KBAs with enhanced protection or management	15	Collecting seed material and planting trees: most of these hectares come out of private property in the areal of the skadar oak, since the locals have planted the trees in their yards. A lot of the hectares are enhanced in state property as well: such as the yards of the schools, of some companies, parks. This contribution was given in the 2 KBAs: MNE 13 – Skadarsko jezero (Skadar lake) and MNE 11 – Dolina Zete (Zeta river valley), from where the acorns were collected.
4.2 Number of unprotected sites with improved management for plants	2	The area of Podgorica municipality where the area of the Skadar oak is presented, and where the planting actions occurred: 2ha in yards of schools and kindergarten. Area of Zeta municipality: 1ha at the Airports of MNE, private land in the surroundings of Skadar lake.

4.5 Number of locally endemic or highly threatened plant species for which improved knowledge is available	1	*Quercus robur ssp scutariensis - phytocenological data was collected, which was the basis for describing different plant associations in the Skadar oak forests or its remainings. Apart from scientific knowledge, the publication was made, written in common language anyone can understand, where the history of skadar oak in MNE is presented, causes of the dissapearance of its forests and the advices for its revitalisation. We have used this opportunity to make a publication not only dedicated do skadar oak, but for all of the oaks of Montenegro (8 of them): Q. robur, Q. cerris, Q. frainetto, Q. pubescens, Q. petraea, Q. trojana, Q. ilex, Q. coccifera.*

4.6 Number of KBAs for which information on plants is improved	3	Zeta river valley (MNE 11) Skadar lake (MNE 13) Bojana river delta (MNE03) In all three KBAs phytocenology research was done (and different plant assotiations of Skadar oak forests were decribed). In all of them educational activities were conducted. In Skadar lake and Zeta river valley collection of acorns, as well as planting actions were conducted. In Bojana valley oaks were mapped but they did not produce the acorns during the active project years. The plan was to cover also Buljarica (MNE 01) with this project, but after fieldwork research the oaks found there were not classified as Skadar oaks, so it was excluded from the activities for now.
4.7 Number of young professionals with substantial experience in plant conservation gained	15	9 young researchers have participated in the trainings about plant phytocenology, seed germination and geo - information systems, while in total 15 young researchers (5 men and 10 women) have participated in the practical fieldwork of assessing skadar oak habitats.

5.2 Number of Regional thematic experience-sharing events	2	3rd Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week organised in Greece in October 2021. Poster was presented on the premises of the event, but MES has participated online; Regional workshop in Istambul in September 2022: Empower and Connect Environmental Youth Activists across the ECIS Region (theme: to explore forward-looking solutions for youth engagement on climate change and the nexus of climate, peace, and security) - Skadar oak project and activities were presented

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
4	5	Phytocenology
5	10	Assessing Skadar oak habitats
5	7	Geo - information systems regarding plant research
4	5	Seed germination and raising young trees, nurseries
Total number of men: 5	Total number of women: 10	Total: 15

**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

**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***

Shapefiles of the protected areas can be downloaded from the website: http://www.prirodainfo.me

** 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 *
MNE 11 Zeta stream	*KBA MNE 11*	*10*
MNE 13 Skadar lake	*KBA MNE 13*	*5*

** 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
Podgorica city	2	19.258166	42.438	Planting actions in the school and kindergarten yards
Golubovci	1	19.245931	42.365294	Planting action in the yard of Aeroports of Montenegro

** 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	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services	# of men and boys benefitting	# of women and girls benefitting
Danilovgrad	x					x							x				x	10	10
Podgorica and Zeta						x							x				x	25	25
Ulcinj						x							x				x	20	20

*If you marked “Other” to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

Small landovners in *Danilovgrad* received, as a non - cash benefit, educational opportunity (knowledge and raised awareness) about skadar oak forests (mostly children in schools and kindergartens, but also their teachers and parents, or anyone who became interested in the project activities), but also forests in general, the value and importance of biodiversity. They received collected acorns and, or young skadar oak trees to be planted in their yards.
Urban communities in *Danilovgrad, Podgorica* and *Ulcinj*: received, as a non - cash benefit, educational opportunity (knowledge and raised awareness) about skadar oak forests (mostly children in schools and kindergartens, but also their teachers and parents, or anyone who became interested in the project activities), but also forests in general, the value and importance of biodiversity. They received collected acorns and, or young skadar oak trees to be planted in their school / kindergarten yards and city parks.

Increased resilience to climate change in these *three municipalities*: By planting trees and raising knowledge and awareness about the importance of trees and forests, locals included in the activities directly contributed to mitigation of climate change for all of the citizens.
Improved access to ecosystem services in these *three municipalities*: By planting trees and raising knowledge and awareness about the importance of trees and forests, locals included in the activities directly contributed to the well being of the ecosystem services such as: production of clean air, water storage and erosion and flood control, human well being, spiritual values of trees, extreme temperature mitigation, noise management and so on.

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.		Scope (mark with x)			Topic(s) addressed (mark with x)															
	Name of Law, Policy or Regulation	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																				
…																				

*** 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				

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	Aeroports of Montenegro	Planting trees	Montenegro
2	Traffic administration - Ministry of Capital investments	Agreed to save the tree during reconstruction and adapt the construction of the road to one oak tree	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 Network/ Partnership? Y/N	Country(s) covered	Purpose
1	Local portal Volim Danilovgrad	2020	Y	Montenegro	VD partnered with MES in a way to promote nature based stories in the local community of Danilovgrad, often is consulting MES or promoting MES activities. With the help of VD, during the skadar oak project, MES became the most visible environmental NGO in Danilovgrad
					All of the press releases supported by VD since the beginning of the project can be seen here: https://volimdanilovgrad.me/?s=hrast https://volimdanilovgrad.me/?s=skadarski+dub https://volimdanilovgrad.me/?s=cde

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.

21a. Details about the mechanism

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

**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				

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)
Cerambyx	*cerdo*	Great Capricorn beetle	VU	Planting trees that provide the habitat for C.cerdo	Unknown

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: Montenegrin Ecologists Society
Generic email address: drustvoekologa@gmail.com