

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Instructions to grantees: please complete all fields, and respond to all questions, below.

<b>Organization Legal Name</b>	<i>EuroNatur Foundation</i>
<b>Project Title</b>	<i>Improving the Management of Hutovo Blato Nature Park</i>
<b>CEPF GEM No.</b>	62733
<b>Date of Report</b>	2015-10-08
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### CEPF Region:

Europe & Central Asia: Mediterranean Basin

### Strategic Direction:

3. Improve the conservation and protection status of 44 priority key biodiversity areas  
3.2. Develop financial mechanisms that support protected areas while enhancing sustainable livelihood and promoting community management of priority key biodiversity areas.

### Grant Amount:

194908.00 USD

### Project Dates:

Start Date: 2013/6/1; End Date: 2015/5/31, prolonged to 2015/8/31

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

- Hutovo Blato Nature Park - local park management authority, ultimate beneficiary of the project, participated in each component and was responsible for the efficiency of the ranger service and the distribution of the salaries among the rangers (supervised and controlled by EuroNatur)
- Nase ptice, national NGO with office in Sarajevo and strong expertise in the fields of bird conservation (especially water birds and waders) and environmental education. Nase ptice was the local partner in charge of the majority of our project activities and at the same time supervised and guided the local NGO Ljapa nasa.
- Ljapa Nasa is a regional NGO based in Čapljina with profound knowledge about the Nature Park, its natural values, socio-economic situation of local communities, the park's difficulties, challenges and history. Ljapa Nasa has strong relations to the Park administration which brought a beneficiary effect to the project. Ljapa Nasa supported Nase ptice mainly in preparing and conducting official events in the Nature Park, such as the open-day celebrations, and assisted in communication and involvement of the local hunting associations as well as in bird monitoring.
- Nature Park Lonjsko Polje (HR): within the framework of the project, the rangers of

Hutovo Blato Nature Park have been sent on an exchange visit to the Nature Park Lonjsko Polje in Croatia. Lonjsko Polje is a best practice example for integrated management of visitors, the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of the valuable Sava river floodplains and sustainable regional development (nature tourism). The natural landscape of Lonjsko Polje has a lot of similarities with the Nature Park Hutovo Blato, as it is located in the lowland, composed of a diverse mosaic of freshwater and open floodplain ecosystems, as well alluvial forests. The Nature Park has a professional and well-organized ranger service successfully protecting the park against any kind of illegal activities. EuroNatur has been working closely together with Lonjsko Polje since 1989.

### **Conservation Impacts**

#### **2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile**

The project “contributed to the third strategic direction of the CEPF “Improve the conservation and protection status of 44 priority key biodiversity areas” targeting Hutovo Blato key biodiversity area in the Eastern Adriatic corridor.

More specifically, the objectives and activities that have been conducted on the site were implemented with the aim to “promote improved management of existing protected areas by developing and implementing sustainable management plans” according to investment priority 3.1.

Investment priority 3.2, “Develop financial mechanisms that support protected areas while enhancing sustainable livelihood and promoting community management of priority key biodiversity areas”, was addressed by fostering the development of nature tourism in the region (as well as by an related project conducted by WWF).

The project activities strongly involved the local community and other relevant regional stakeholders, which corresponds to investment priority 3.3 “Raise awareness of the importance of priority key biodiversity areas, including those that have irreplaceable plant and marine biodiversity”.

#### **3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project**

Output 1: The protection status of Hutovo Blato Nature Park was improved by improving the quality of the ranger service and the overall Nature Park management.

Output 2: A monitoring of the protection of the park was established, using water birds as indicators of biodiversity and human disturbance via regular monitoring activities. The increased number of waterbirds in the park indicated that the envisaged improvement of protection was achieved.

Output 3: The natural wealth of the park was promoted amongst the local community and the attention of decision makers towards the parks protection was stimulated via promotion and educational activities.

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

*List each long-term impact from Grant Writer proposal*

There are no long-term goals stated in the Grant Writer proposal

#### **4. Actual progress toward long-term impacts at completion**

Not applicable

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

*List each short-term impact from Grant Writer proposal*

There are no short-term goals stated in the Grant Writer proposal

**5. Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion**

Not applicable

**6. Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

**Project Components and Products/Deliverables**

**Component 1 (as stated in the approved proposal)**

*List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer*

**Activity 1.1.**

provide project funds to support three permanently employed rangers for 24 months (\$ 686 per month and ranger including social services and tax)

**Activity 1.2.**

consultation of ornithologists from SLO, HR and BiH as well as Nature Park administration to elaborate a proper and most effective patrolling system for the entire Nature Park territory (aquatic and terrestrial routes, schedules, observation points)

**Activity 1.3.**

evaluate the availability and needs of/ for equipment like binoculars, torches, knives, outdoor clothes, vehicles (e.g. boat and bicycles) for rangers etc.

**Activity 1.4.**

Arrange an exchange visit to Lonjsko Polje Nature Park (HR), find an appropriate date (spring 2014), organize attendance for the park rangers by the Lonjsko Polje staff, organize travel and a final session to sum up the impressions and knowledge gathered

**Activity 1.5.**

prepare and conduct training and evaluation workshops for the Nature Park rangers and other relevant staff (visitor management) three times throughout the project (1 initial, 1 review and 1 final project evaluation)

**Activity 1.6.**

elaborate a digital reporting system for the rangers, which will serve as a data base for observations on the site and at the same time provide an evaluation tool to the project coordination and Nature Park admin

**Activity 1.7.**

contact the steering committee and get involved into the information transfer related to the preparation of the management plan, consultation of national and international experts

**8. Describe the results from Component 1 and each product/deliverable****Activity 1.1.**

The management of the NP Hutovo Blato aims to pay all employees simultaneously, as the park is a Public Company. However, the cantonal government lagged behind in their provision of funds for the NP Hutovo Blato in 2015. This led to a delay of the salary to employees, including the 3 rangers funded by the project (Denis Pehar, Mirko Tomić and Vide Marković). EuroNatur wrote letters to the relevant institutions in June 2015 and pushed them to fulfill their obligations in funding the NP Hutovo Blato. In August 2015 the problem was solved and the rangers (and also the other employees) have been payed.

As another CEPF funded project conducted by WWF (target: financial sustainability of Hutovo Blato NP) did not yet pay off, the Nature Park managed to raise some funds from the NGO "Dinarica" to further support a part of the rangers also after the end of the CEPF project "Improving the Management of Hutovo Blato Nature Park". However, some people were dismissed (mainly the shortest-serving ones) due to a lack of funds. Unfortunately, this included also the head of the ranger service, Josip Vekic, who was a major force behind the successful monitoring that was established in the framework of the project.

On 31 July 2015 an Agreement of Cooperation was signed by EuroNatur, the NP Hutovo Blato, the NGO Nase ptice, the NGO Ljepa nasa and the Hunting Association Galeb, in which the parties agree to continue their cooperation in order to secure a monitoring of birds and illegal hunting activities also in the future. To put this into practice, the agreement foresees the employment of Josip Vekic (former head of the ranger service of NP Hutovo Blato, now dismissed due to lack of funds in the NP) by Nase ptice with funds from EuroNatur; it also foresees the support of Josip Vekic's work (e.g. fuel costs, material costs, car/boat rent, etc.) through additional funds, which will also be provided by EuroNatur.

EuroNatur and Nase ptice have signed a corresponding grant agreement on 1 September 2015, which lasts until 31 August 2016. Accordingly Nase ptice has employed Josip Vekic from 1 September 2015 onwards. Josip Vekic is respected as the main coordinator of the bird and hunting monitoring for Hutovo Blato NP and parts of the Neretva Delta by all parties that have signed the Agreement of Cooperation. We hope that the CEPF funded project conducted by WWF will pay off until 31 August 2016, so that the monitoring of wildlife and poaching can be financed also after the interim financing by EuroNatur will end.

**Activity 1.2.**

In the first months of the project, the head of the ranger service Josip Vekic established a patrolling plan, which was implemented throughout the project. Patrolling tours were carried out daily. Stronger control was carried out during the hunting season and on weekends and holidays, when a greater hunting pressure was expected, particularly along the border areas of the park. Special emphasis was placed on the area of Svitavsko lake because its large exposure to illegal activities. Good cooperation was established with the police administration, whose

members, if it was necessary, went in the field together with the park rangers. When they noticed illegal activity, the rangers issued warnings to the respective perpetrator. In some cases they have filed reports to the police and seized firearms.

This activity included two years of testing the system of monitoring of birds and poaching. The results from the field were discussed during workshops that Nase ptice organized jointly with the Nature Park. The proposed model was accepted at the final workshop. A "Protocol for monitoring birds and poaching in Hutovo blato" was written by Nase ptice (with input by EuroNatur) at the end of the project. This document contains information on how to patrol and perform monitoring of birds (eg. time schedule and monitoring methods for certain groups of birds) and poaching in the area of Hutovo Blato. The document was submitted to the administration of the Nature Park for use and for inclusion in the action plan of the Nature Park.

The two-year monitoring based on the established system of patrolling has shown remarkable results in terms of reducing the level of poaching, better cooperation of Hutovo Blato Nature Park with the police, local community and local hunting association.

In order to continue the cooperation on the establishment of bird monitoring and control of poaching in Hutovo blato, the agreement on voluntary participation in the continuation of the monitoring program in 2015-2016 was signed at the end of the project, between Nature Park Hutovo Blato, EuroNatur, Ornithological Society „Naše ptice”, NGO „Lijepa naša” and Hunting association „Galeb”. (For more details see above.)

### **Activity 1.3.**

In 2013 equipment was purchased for the park rangers according to suggestions by EuroNatur. The park bought equipment for eight rangers. This equipment included shoes and uniforms (pants, shirts and jackets). In order to complete the necessary equipment the park bought two binoculars (Minox BV 10x42), 4 Motorola Walkie-Talki sets and 3 cameras (Canon PowerShot SX 160 IS).

The Nature Park used part of the funding of this activity also to maintain its equipment, i.e. to repair boats and to procure parts for outboard engines. The fixed boats were used for inspection of the park.

### **Activity 1.4.**

The visit to the Lonjsko Polje Nature Park in Croatia was organized on 2-5 April 2014, and 9 persons took part (members of Ornithological Society “Naše ptice”, Hutovo Blato Nature Park and NGO “Lijepa naša”). During the meeting with the staff of Lonjsko Polje Nature Park, the visitors got informed about the organization of the Park, its capacities, management plan and action plan and attended the workshop on White Stork and White-tailed Eagle monitoring in Croatia. An integral part of the visit was a tour around Lonjsko polje Nature Park. The information collected during this visit was used by Hutovo Blato Nature Park for the creation of a management plan and an action plan for Hutovo blato.

### **Activity 1.5.**

Three workshops (13.01.2014., 01.14.2015 and 06.04.2015) were organized. The first two workshops were dedicated to the importance and methods of monitoring of birds and poaching,

the importance and role of park rangers in monitoring, and to processing of the data collected during monitoring. The issue of establishing a patrolling system within the monitoring of birds and poaching in Hutovo blato was also discussed. These workshops were combined with the International Waterbird Census (IWC). The results of the two-year monitoring program and the established system of patrols were evaluated during the third workshop, and it was concluded that there is a need to further develop that system.

The workshops were attended by 9-15 participants: the Rangers of Hutovo Blato Nature Park, members of the hunting association Galeb from Čapljina, NGO "Lijepa naša" and Ornithological Society "Naše ptice".

#### **Activity 1.6.**

The establishment of the digital database was more complicated than initially planned. Nase ptice issued a tender for the preparation of the database, but the costs for the design were very high - additionally a constant technical maintenance of the database would either have resulted in ongoing costs by an external service company or the employment of a skillful person in the Nature Park. However, neither ongoing costs for an external service provider nor the employment of a database manager were feasible options due to the difficult financial situation of the Nature Park.

EuroNatur therefore established a non-profit cooperation with [naturgucker.de/enjoynature.net](http://naturgucker.de/enjoynature.net), a German-based online nature observation platform. [naturgucker.de/enjoynature.net](http://naturgucker.de/enjoynature.net) enables individual users or organizations to enter pictures and observation data from all over the world for a large array of taxonomic groups. [naturgucker.de/enjoynature.net](http://naturgucker.de/enjoynature.net) also offers the technical possibility to enter observational data that is not related to a taxonomic species and can therefore also be used to store data about illegal activities (it has, for instance, been used to locate and document powerlines and poles that are dangerous to birds). It is free of charge and continuously maintained by a honorary team of technical and scientific experts. The German homepage is fully operational ([www.naturgucker.de/euronatur-de](http://www.naturgucker.de/euronatur-de)) and the Nature Park has been entered as an observation polygon (<http://www.naturgucker.de/?verein=euronatur-de&gebiet=390052731>). The content of the homepage is also translated into English to about 85 % (flag in upper right corner). The English URL "[enjoynature.net/euronatur](http://enjoynature.net/euronatur)" is not yet operational, but will be online as soon as the translations have been completed to 100 %.

By using [naturgucker.de/enjoynature.net](http://naturgucker.de/enjoynature.net) the Nature Park has a powerful tool that enables its staff to enter and store observational data and pictures, without any continuous costs and without the hurdles of technical maintenance.

#### **Activity 1.7.**

The draft of the management plan, which was prepared by the companies „Elektroprojekt“ and „Ecoplan“ was forwarded to EuroNatur and Nase ptice by the Nature Park Hutovo Blato. After reviewing the draft of the management plan, the agreed opinion of EuroNatur and Nase ptice was submitted to the management of the Hutovo Blato Nature Park. The basic suggestions for the improvement of the proposed management plan refer to the zoning of the area of the park, that should include the protection of individual parts that are important for birds, and to put greater emphasis on the establishment of programs of birdwatching tourism, nature education and wildlife monitoring as part of the sustainable management of the park.

The local hunting associations and the NGO "Lijepa naša" also gave their remarks and comments on the draft Spatial Plan of the Nature Park Hutovo Blato.

The draft of the management plan is currently blocked and cannot be adopted before the adoption of the regional plan for Hutovo Blato by the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, which is expected to happen soon.

### **Component 2 (as stated in the approved proposal)**

*List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer*

#### **Activity 2.1.**

prepare monitoring scheme for spring and autumn water bird migration (mid October and mid March) according to international standards. Data will be processed statistically in order to visualize and evaluate eventual trends.

#### **Activity 2.2.**

conduct the IWC monitoring in middle of January in 2014 and 2015 according to international standards and report the data to Wetlands International. Besides, data will be processed statistically in order to visualize and evaluate eventual trends.

#### **Activity 2.3.**

define target breeding bird species and prepare specific monitoring schemes for those species with support from ornithology experts

#### **Activity 2.4.**

Prepare report about the protection of water birds in Hutovo Blato Nature Park each year using monitoring results to evaluate the status (Ramsar, IBA) and make statistical evaluation of population trends

## **9. Describe the results from Component 2 and each product/deliverable**

#### **Activity 2.1.**

The monitoring of birds was performed from October 2013 to August 2015, at one day of each month, resulting in 23 counts in total. In addition to the members of the Ornithological Society "Naše ptice", the monitoring activities were also performed by rangers of the Hutovo Blato Nature Park, members of the NGO "Lijepa naša" and members of the hunting association "Galeb". The monitoring was carried out according to the adopted methodology for counting certain bird species during certain seasonal aspects. The monitoring has covered 62 bird species of 14 families (Anatidae, Podicipedidae, Phalacrocoracidae, Ardeidae, Threiskornithidae, Pandionidae, Acipitridae, Rallidae, Gruidae, Charadriidae, Scolopacidae, Laridae, Alcenidae and Falconidae). All gathered data were inserted in an excel document and used for annual and final reports and analysis. The monitoring and analyses of the data from Hutovo Blato project was connected with data from the projects "Identification and Promotion of Karst Poljes in Bosnia - Herzegovina as Wetlands of National and International Importance", "Towards a functioning

system of stop-over sites along the Adriatic Flyway" and "ORNIBA - Bird Species Protection in Balkans: Joint Intervention by Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro", which were completed in late 2013 and 2014.

The increase in the number of birds in Hutovo Blato at the time of monitoring can be expressed by the fact that in October 2014 a total of 20.018 individuals were recorded. Along with the Common Coot and Pygmy Cormorant, the ducks (eg. Ferruginous and Tufted Duck) were the species whose number increased during this period. The analysis of data showed that the autumn migration was much more intensive than the spring migration.

#### **Activity 2.2.**

The most obvious increase in the number of birds can be seen during the winter. During the two-year monitoring events there were about 24.000 individuals (24.612 in 2014 and 23.405 in 2015). This is an important criterion for an IBA and RAMSAR site, which Hutovo blato hasn't been fulfilling for a long time. A significant factor which led to the increase in number of birds in Hutovo Blato during winter is a reduced rate of poaching in the last two years. The most abundant species is the Common Coot (*Fulica atra*), with average number of 16.500 individuals in winter.

#### **Activity 2.3.**

During the breeding bird monitoring, special attention was paid to the mixed breeding colony of Pygmy Cormorant (ca 600 pairs), Grey Heron (20 pairs), Little Egret (ca 100 pairs), Squacco Heron (ca 25 pairs) and Black-crowned Night Heron (ca 10 pairs). In 2013, nesting activities of Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) have been recorded in the colony, but the breeding activity of this species is still unstable because of a small number of pairs. The most abundant breeding species, along with the Pygmy Cormorant, is the Common Coot (ca 500 pairs). It is also important to mention ca 50 breeding pairs of Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*), ca 5 breeding pairs of Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*) and ca 10 breeding pairs of Eurasian Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*).

It is also important to mention the first sighting of Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), which was recorded in late spring and early summer. The breeding was not confirmed, but there are objective circumstances which make the area of Hutovo Blato a possible breeding site for this bird species.

#### **Activity 2.4.**

Overall, the most important results of two-year monitoring include the first sighting of Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) in Hutovo Blato and a significant increase in the number of birds in all seasons in comparison to the 2008-2013 period. In particular, the increase is reflected in the fact that during the autumn migration and wintering period more than 20.000 individuals were recorded, which is one of the important criteria that Hutovo Blato fulfills as an IBA and Ramsar site. The most abundant species is the Common Coot (*Fulica atra*). The results of the monitoring and the effect of poaching on birds of Hutovo blato were presented at a conference in Albania.

### **Component 3 (as stated in the approved proposal)**

*List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer*



**Activity 3.1.**

Prepare material and program for out-door lectures to local/ regional school classes and invite those to participate in the initiative

**Activity 3.2.**

develop and produce out-door information boards about the Nature Park's aquatic fauna and birds and most severe threats (poaching, disturbance, water regulations, habitat loss, over exploitation), which will be placed at certain spots in the park

**Activity 3.3.**

prepare and conduct "open day" celebrations on WMBD2014 and 2015 in the Nature Park inviting the regional community and relevant stakeholders (including hunters associations from Stoltac and Čapljina) and informing about benefits of Nature Park for the region, inform and involve the local hunting associations, implement a suggestion box in the park

**Activity 3.4.**

select film team for the production of the image film and develop short screen play together

**Activity 3.5.**

prepare the contents for the leaflet (text, graphics, pictures, visitor map)

**10. Describe the results from Component 3 and each product/deliverable****Activity 3.1.**

This activity included four workshops (10.05.2014, 23.09.2014, 31.01.2015 and 09.05.2015) for students of elementary schools and high schools from Čapljina and other settlements in the area. A total of 101 children and 10 teachers from 4 schools have participated in the workshops. The students got information about the local bird fauna, ways of observing and techniques of identifying different bird species. In the second part of the workshop, the students were taken to a tour around Hutovo Blato by boat, after which they watched the birds from the embankment around the lakes.

The spring workshops aimed at celebrating the International Migratory Bird Day and were connected with the international program "Spring Alive", during which the students were introduced to five typical migratory bird species which breed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

All participants received a copy of the observation form, made exclusively for birdwatchers on Hutovo Blato, which was printed in 500 copies. The remaining copies will be distributed to tourists.

**Activity 3.2.**

During the project the Nature Park hutovo Blato has installed six information boards. In the first phase of the project, the locations for setting up the boards were defined. The selected locations are all suitable for bird watching. The information boards show basic information about the Nature Park. The content is bilingual (Croatian and English) and thus available to a large number of visitors. To enhance durability the boards are constructed of metal with a small

roof as protection from the sun. The roof is covered with reed for better blending with environment. The content and the photos are printed in color; the ink is not sensitive to the sun.

### **Activity 3.3.**

Two one-day activities were organized on 23.09.2014. and 05.06.2015. At the first activity, on 23.09.2014, the new information boards were presented and the educational workshop on bird ringing was organized. It involved students from elementary schools and high schools from Čapljina. In 2015, there was a public conference, in which the project results and current problems of Hutovo Blato were presented. The promotional movie about Hutovo Blato was also presented during the conference, after which there was an organized tour around Hutovo Blato for children from local schools. These activities were organized by the Hutovo Blato Nature Park; the Ornithological Society „Naše ptice” participated as an associate in providing assistance for development of informational boards (text and images), the organization of transport of the students, the organization of workshops (providing mist nets) and presentation of the results of the monitoring of birds at Hutovo Blato.

As part of the bird observation, "Lijepa naša" organized an additional lecture for students of secondary and primary schools in the Nature Park Hutovo Blato on 10.06.2015. The training was conducted by members of "Lijepa naša", "Naše ptice" and the employees of the park.

Additionally activities:

- A workshop was conducted for NGOs, employees of the Park, schools and local residents in the framework of the International Day of Wetland Habitats in the Nature Park Hutovo Blato on 02.02.2015. "Lijepa naša" gave support to the organization of this workshop.

- As part of the World Water Day, the members of "Lijepa naša" promoted activities on bird-watching and protecting wetlands with a photo exhibition in Mostar on 22.03.2015.

- A photo exhibition on the biological and landscape diversity of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton was organized by "Lijepa naša" in Eco-ethno village of Medjugorje on 10.04.2015.

- A workshop with teachers about biodiversity monitoring in the Neretva delta, which included an excursion was organized by Ljepa nasa on 17.-18.05.2015.

### **Activity 3.4.**

The image film has been produced jointly by two companies: "Prukcija Visoki" and "AMB dizajn i foto". Three versions of the movie have been prepared: one in Bosnian, one with English subtitles and one with German subtitles. All three versions are on the same DVD. 1,000 DVDs with DVD covers have been produced. The movie is also publicly available on youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=od1ZT7cVvA0>).

### **Activity 3.5.**

As part of these activities the Hutovo Blato Nature Park has developed an information leaflet, and the Ornithological Society "Naše ptice" participated as an associate by providing information.

**Component 4 (as stated in the approved proposal)**

*List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer*

**Activity 4.1.**

fill in and submit the METT 1 and CSTT questionnaires to CEPF in the first quarter, at the mid point and by the end of the project duration

**Activity 4.2.**

Forward regular reports about the engagement and project activities of the Sub-grantee Nase ptice to CEPF

**Activity 4.3.**

Forward regular reports about the progress of the Nature Park authorities (ranger service, visitor management, visitor facilities, educational offer) of the Nature Park's ranger service to CEPF

**Activity 4.4.**

Forward regular reports about the engagement and project activities of the Sub-grantee Nase ptice to CEPF

**11. Describe the results from Component 4 and each product/deliverable**

**Activity 4.1.**

The CSTT has been filled by EuroNatur. The METT has been filled by EuroNatur and Nase ptice. Both documents have been submitted to CEPF.

**Activity 4.2.**

All technical reports have been forwarded to CEPF. In agreement with CEPF staff, the financial reports have not been forwarded, but incorporated into the financialreport of EuroNatur.

**Activity 4.3.**

All technical reports have been forwarded to CEPF. In agreement with CEPF staff, the financial reports have not been forwarded, but incorporated into the financialreport of EuroNatur.

**Activity 4.4.**

All technical reports have been forwarded to CEPF. In agreement with CEPF staff, the financial reports have not been forwarded, but incorporated into the financialreport of EuroNatur.

**12. If you did not complete any component or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?**

All components have been completed.

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

A "Protocol for monitoring birds and poaching in Hutovo blato" was written by Nase ptice (with input by EuroNatur) at the end of the project. This document contains information on how to patrol and perform monitoring of birds (eg. time schedule and monitoring methods for certain groups of birds) and poaching in the area of Hutovo Blato. The document was submitted to the administration of the Nature Park for use and for inclusion in the action plan of the Nature Park. It has also been submitted to CEPF.

**CEPF Global Monitoring Data**

Respond to the questions and complete the tables below. If a question is not relevant to your project, please make an entry of 0 (zero) or n/a (not applicable).

**14. Did your organization complete the CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT) at the beginning and end of your project? (Please be sure to submit the final CSTT tool to CEPF if you haven't already done so.)**

	Date	Composite Score
Baseline CSTT	2013-09-18	68
Final CSTT	2015-10-08	88.5

**15. List any vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species conserved due to your project**

Not applicable

**Hectares Under Improved Management**

Project Results	Hectares*	Comments
<b>16. Did your project strengthen the management of an existing protected area?</b>	7411	<i>Hutovo Blato Nature Park</i>
<b>17. Did your project create a new protected area or expand an existing protected area?</b>	N/A	<i>List the name of each protected area, the date of proclamation, and the type of proclamation (e.g., legal declaration, community agreement, stewardship agreement)</i>
<b>18. Did your project strengthen the management of a key biodiversity area named in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile (hectares may be the same as questions above)</b>	7411	<i>Hutovo Blato Nature Park</i>
<b>19. Did your project improve the management of a production landscape for biodiversity conservation</b>		<i>List the name or describe the location of the production landscape</i>

*\* Include total hectares from project inception to completion*

**20. In relation to the two questions above on protected areas, did your project complete a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), or facilitate the completion of a METT by protected area authorities? If so, complete the table below. (Note that there will often be more than one METT for an individual protected area.)**

Protected area	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score
Hutovo blato	2013-09-18	39	2015-10-08	41		

**21. List the name of any corridor (named in the Ecosystem Profile) in which you worked and how you contributed to its improved management, if applicable.**

Corridor: Eastern Adriatic

The project improved the management of Hutovo blato and thereby improved its protection status. The value of the protected area as a stop-over site for migrating birds, as a resting site for wintering birds and as breeding site for breeding birds has been improved considerably. The awareness of the local population has been improved and first steps towards a sustainable eco-tourism offer have been implemented.

**Direct Beneficiaries: Training and Education**

<i>Did your project provide training or education for . . .</i>	Male	Female	Total	Brief Description
<b>22. Adults for community leadership or resource management positions</b>	34	1	35	rangers, hunters, park management, NGO
<b>23. Adults for livelihoods or increased income</b>				
<b>24. School-aged children</b>	57	44	101	students of primary and secondary school
<b>25. Other</b>		10	10	teachers

**26. List the name and approximate population size of any “community” that benefited from the project.**

*Community name, surrounding district, surrounding province, country*      *Population size*

Čapljina 27.800  
 Hutovo 100  
 Gabela 2000

## 27. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Based on the list of communities above, write the name of the communities in the left column below. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes.

Community Name	Community Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty line	Other	Increased income due to:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance	Other
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services									
Čapljina			+			+															
Hutovo	+		+	+					+	+	+		+	+	+			+	+	+	
Gabela			+			+				+								+	+	+	

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:

## Lessons Learned

### **28. Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community**

It is apparent that the financial situation of the nature park will continue to be unstable, since a large part of the budget depends on the willingness of the government to pay. The example of the head of the rangers, Josip Vekic, shows the importance of having knowledgeable and motivated staff in the Nature Park who are implementing the project activities well despite the facts that they do not receive salaries for several months. Unfortunately Joisp has been dsimissed now due to financial problems of the Nature Park. Nevertheless, he will continue his work with support of a fund of EuroNatur.

### **29. Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)**

Close collaboration with a coalition of local NGOs that covered a wide array of expertise was very important for the successful implementation of the activities and of the acceptance by local people.

### **30. Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)**

Common activities of different stakeholders guaranteed a high level of communication and information exchange within the project but also from the project to the public.

### **31. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community**

none

## Sustainability / Replication

### **32. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated**

Positive:

Within the framework of the project good cooperation's has been established with the local police stations and local hunting organization from Stolac and Capljina. Several schools participated in the outdoor lectures and the Open day.

Negative:

This unstable financial situation is a severe problem as the Nature Park already had to dismiss employees that were very important not only for the implementation of the project but also for the proper future operation of the Nature Park. Another CEPF-funded project by WWF that aimed at a sustainable financial situation of the Park needs to pay of in the future, did unfortunately not yet pay off.

Unforeseeable:

Nikola Zovko, the current director of Hutovo Blato Nature Park has been accused for having committed war crimes. It is currently unclear whether Mr. Zovko can remain director of the park under these circumstances. It is currently unclear whether a new director might be in charge in the future and which skills and attitude this person will have.

### **33. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability**

Hutovo Blato Nature Park, NGO Naše ptice and NGO Lijepa naša will continue with their tasks. The three organisation, EuroNatur and the hunting organisation Galeb have signed an agreement of cooperation to ensure the monitoring of birds and illegal activities in Hutovo Blato nature park also in the future.

### **Safeguards**

**34. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards**

Not applicable

### **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

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



## Additional Funding

**36. Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Naše ptice	A	3780.00 EUR	Naše ptice provided part of the funding for staff engaged in project
EuroNatur	A	9000.00 EUR	EuroNatur continues activities in the Park with own funds.
Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism	A	90.000 BAM	Used for Salaries and buying a car.

*\* Categorize the type of funding as:*

- A Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
- C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

## Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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