Establishing Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in Montenegro

a contribution by
GEF Project „Promoting Protected Areas Management through Integrated Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Protection in Coastal Area of Montenegro“

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Integrated Coastal and Marine Protected Areas

1. Natural *connections* of coastal and marine features and processes, including biodiversity assets

2. Advantages for the *designation* **Integrated** Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (C / MPAs)

3. Specificities of C / MPAs (regime of protection, co-management) – *subsystem* of PAs

Project “Promoting Protected Areas Management through Integrated Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Protection in Coastal Area of Montenegro”
Component 1. Protection of valuable coastal and marine biodiversity assets and establishment of the subsystem of integrated C / MPAs - to confirm 3 priority C/MPAs (Platamuni, Katič, Stari Ulcinj) will provide effective protection of key coastal and marine ecosystems in Montenegro. Procedure of establishing new C/MPAs will follow national legal requirements (Law on Nature Protection, 2016).

Component 2. Management effectiveness is ensured in the C / MPAs in Platamuni, Katici and Stari Ulcinj critical land/seascapes - ensure effective management of critical land/seascapes of 3 newly established C/MPAs (Platamuni, Katič, Stari Ulcinj). Prepare standard PA management documentation (model, plans) associated with monitoring and enforcement.
Project Component 1
Activities by Outcomes

Outcome 1.1 Representative Coastal and Marine Protected Areas identified to protect key coastal and marine ecosystems and biodiversity of global importance

Activities / Outputs:
- Prepare and undertake a Survey Campaign in the coastal area of Montenegro covering 70,544 hectares
- Assess the biodiversity and ecosystem services against national and international standards
- Identify the nationally and globally significant sites for biodiversity conservation
- Establish comprehensive Data Sets and GIS mapping for the entire coastal area of Montenegro

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Results
- comprehensive data sets and GIS mapping in compliance with national and international standards and requirements (UN CBD/Aichi, Natura/Emerald, EcAp/IMAP, etc.).
- identification of the nationally and globally significant sites for biodiversity conservation, including identifying borders of the three priority C/MPAs with precise, i.e. exact boundaries, zoning and clearly defined regimes of their protection.
- database provide information on the valuable biodiversity assets in both marine and coastal areas in order to fill in all remaining knowledge gaps.
- (general) assessment of the status of coastal and marine ecosystems in order to support the science policy interface for protection of biodiversity assets and harmonization of development plans with the biodiversity values.

Project Research Area: 106,822 hectares (in total), including:
- (i) Terrestrial Mediterranean zone that is spread between 0 and 400 m a.s.l. (66,725 hectares) and
- (ii) Marine zone that is appropriate for diving surveys in depth of 0 - 50 m (40,097 hectares)

Survey (effective) area: **70,544** hectares (in total):
- terrestrial part = 66,725 hectares
- marine part = 3,819 hectares (effectively applied in the zones of C/MPAs Platamuni, Katič and Stari Ulcinj) (Platamuni = 1036.1 hectares, Katič = 448.6 hectares and Stari Ulcinj = 2334.8 hectares)

Remote sensing techniques applied in both, marine and terrestrial part. In marine part, physical and biological characterization shall include engaging acoustic (sonar) and ROV equipment.
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Project “Promoting Protected Areas Management through Integrated Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Protection in Coastal Area of Montenegro”
Outcome 1.2 Management framework in place involving all relevant stakeholders for (i) network of C/MPAs in Montenegro; (ii) expansion of C/MPAs; (iii) compatibility of land/sea/natural resources usage with overall biodiversity management goal

Activities / Outputs:
- Capacity and governance needs, including technical needs, human resources (including gender consideration) and legislation needs for successful management of C/MPAs identified
- Joint multi-stakeholder C/MPAs WG established to form a coordination mechanism for project implementation
- National Planning Framework for the Network of C/MPAs is prepared, including the roles and responsibilities of State, private sector, and communities (diversified by gender) for C/MPAs management clarified

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Activities

**Review of human and technical capacities and governance and legislative framework** for the management of C/M PAs

Institutional capacity for management of C/MPAs as well as potential to enhance coordination for planning and implementing other coastal and marine related activities shall be conducted. The analysis and recommendations of the legal and institutional framework for marine protected areas will contribute to the preservation and protection of marine biodiversity as well as other natural resources. Legislative framework for the management of C/M PAs shall be also analyzed in order to give recommendation how to ensure coordinated approach in the management of C/MPAs.

Undertake an analysis of the collected data with view of successful management of C/MPAs

As a basis to design the National Planning Framework for the network of C/MPAs to be consulted with the relevant government authorities and efficient management approach all data that are going to be collected through the survey campaign and during the stakeholder discussions shall be analyzed in order to develop participatory approach in defining successful management model of C/MPAs.
Identify members of the C/MPAs working group

In order to elevate and utilize collaboration and communication between the project stakeholders, the project shell enable participatory engagement of the experts in the working group, stakeholders and other authorities that would make the needed difference in mainstreaming important project components while enabling awareness rising in the local communities and providing a step forward for development of a healthy nature conservation system (currently non-existent in Montenegro), a Working Group will be formed of all relevant stakeholders such as: Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs, Nature Protection and Environment Agency, Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Public Management, Public Enterprise for National Parks, Maritime Safety Administration, Port authorities, Administration for Inspection Affairs, Institute for Marine Biology, University of Montenegro - Department for Biology, Local governments (Ulcinj, Bar, Budva, Tivat, Kotor and Herceg Novi), MEDCEM, Centre for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro (CZIP), Montenegrin Ecologists Society, Green Home, Greens of Montenegro, Local communities’ representatives (local fisheries, local tourism organisations).

Determine the scope of work for the working group

In order to ensure valuable contribution and relevant involvement of the wide range of stakeholders, including local communities and decision makers from other sectors, National Project Coordinator will determine Scope of Work of the WG. Scope shall be defined in a way to recognize role and competencies of all relevant stakeholders.
Organize the first Working Group meeting
First meeting of the WG shall be organized within the period October 2018- April 2019.

Review of the current PAs planning framework
Based on the identified needs and complementary to the procedure defined in the legislation, a **National Planning Framework** for the C/MPAs Network shall be prepared on the base of inputs provided from all stakeholder groups and relevant ministries in order to identify existing gaps and propose best possible solutions regarding future C/MPAs planning.

Identify gaps and opportunities
Consultations and inputs of the stakeholders provided within previous activity shall provide gaps and opportunities for future C/MPAs planning recognized and identified in order to propose best possible solutions and approaches regarding National Planning Framework for future C/MPAs Network.
Design the National Planning Framework for the network of C/MPAs to be consulted with the relevant government authorities

Based on the results of the Review of the current PAs planning framework and identified gaps and opportunities for future C/MPAs planning, a National Planning Framework for future C/MPAs Network shall be developed. Consultations with the relevant central and local government authorities shall be conducted in order to provide their outcomes as well as to discuss and approve conclusions and recommendations.

Clarify the roles and responsibilities of different relevant actors

Clear roles and responsibilities of different relevant actors shall be identified as outcome of consultative process and analyses of all relevant legislation. Mechanism for coordination of different relevant actors shall be recommended in order to ensure basis for effective acting in relation to controls and efficient management practices within the future C/MPAs.
10-Year Business Plan

In addition to the national planning framework, a 10-Year Business Plan shall be developed and implemented for the expansion and effective management of the network of C/MPAs, including activities on promotion of C/MPAs in the context of sustainable tourism development. This plan shall be developed and set up for implementation in order to provide development framework for expanding the network of the C/MPAs and effectively managing it. The Business Plan will also contain activities on promotion of C/MPAs in the context of sustainable tourism development aiming at both the relevant decision makers and representatives of the private sector and local communities.

Drafting of the 10-Year Business Plan

Include design of activities on promotion of C/MPAs in the context of sustainable tourism development in consultation with relevant cross-sectoral actors. 10-Year Business Plan shall be developed and implemented for the expansion and effective management of the network of C / MPA subsystem. Business Plan consist detailed plan of activities for sustainable development of C/MPA in order to make them financially attractive and to plan development of activities that are going in line with conservation of most significant nature values of the areas. In order to improve understanding and awareness among private sector and local community activities on promotion of C/MPAs in the context of sustainable tourism development in consultation with relevant cross-sectoral actors shall be done. Same approach shall be applied in order to plan promotion activities in a way to put emphasize on most attractive natural values and activities that comply with conservation of the MPAs, i.e. timelines for establishing new and revising existing PAs defined in the National Planning Framework.
Awareness of decision-makers on the economic benefits of a well-managed network of C/MPAs, including sustainable use of coastal and marine habitats is increased.

**Development of the Communication Strategy** to ensure outreach on the activities and benefits of the project for the general public and local communities.

Communication Strategy shall be based on proactive participation of all relevant stakeholders for awareness raising related to the activities and the benefits of the project. It focuses on sustainable use of coastal and marine habitats, taking into consideration gender and youth mainstreaming, through conducting gender-sensitive advocacy involving all stakeholders, including local communities, private sector, beside local authorities and national government as decision makers. Strategy shall foster: (a) understanding of the issues involved by the general public and the stakeholders, including importance and value of MPAs, thus enabling their contribution to the development and implementation of promotion activities; and (b) enhancement of awareness at the political level and among decision makers that create enabling environment for adequate protection and sustainable valorization of C/MPAs.

The Strategy will build upon previous efforts of different initiatives and projects and it will outline the purpose and goals of well-managed C / MPA subsystem, how the benefits of this subsystem is permeating the work of the government officials, and most importantly, to ensure the ownership of relevant stakeholders over the project, especially the processes on establishing the three new C/MPAs.

The Strategy shall be created for the project purposes but will also give a way to continuation of activities on awareness raising through providing elements for future work on after the project end up.
Communication Strategy shall be implemented through

- **Workshops with local communities** diversifying the actors from public to private
  Workshops shall be undertaken in order to facilitate: (a) building of ownership by the stakeholders; (b) long term sustainability of project outcomes; (c) better informed implementation (with knowledge at the national and local levels) of the project and (d) provide inputs for better assessing socio-economic impacts on local population by establishing new C/MPAs.

- **National Conference on Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Habitats,**
  This Conference shall be organized in order to make all decision makers are fully aware of the economic benefits of a well-managed network of Coastal and Marine PAs and all relevant stakeholders are involved in the process of designing the Management Framework. This shall ensure cross-sectoral integration of environmental protection and the importance of C / MPAs on all government levels that could provide synergy between development and conservation

- **Participation** of relevant government representatives at 2 international conferences
  Participation of the relevant government representatives at least 2 international conferences is to share information about best practices in C / MPA management and insure international outreach of the project (from awareness raising in the communication strategy).

- **Public campaign** to be implemented at national level in order to raise awareness of general public, not only the population closely connected to the C/MPAs, in order to contribute and better understand marine environment
Assessment of socio-economic impacts on local population by establishing new C/MPA

This assessment shall be mainly developed in the frame of Nature Protection Studies for Platamuni, Katič and Stari Ulcinj, upon providing input from the consultations with local population in implementing Communication Strategy. Also, Public hearing Reports on 3 Nature Protection Studies shall provide final input to the assessment. Public Hearing Reports shall be submitted to the government for considerations and these reports, among others, include key elements of the socio-economic impacts of establishing new C/MPAs. Based on the results of the Assessment, any other activity may be facilitated, including, if necessary, a livelihood restoration plan.

Undertake consultations with local population on socio-economic impacts

Consultations with local population shall be conducted through (i) meetings with local population (in implementing Communication Strategy) and (ii) public hearing meetings (on the Nature protection Studies) that apart from local community representatives, obligatory include local fishermen's association and local touristic organizations. Main aim of these consultations is to collect opinions and information on views how establishment of MPAs can affect local population.

Develop the Assessment in compliance with the national laws and regulations (Public hearing report)

In final, key elements of the assessment will be presented in the Public hearing reports. If necessary, additional consultations with national institutions could be organized in compliance with national laws and regulations.

Submit the assessment to the government for consideration, as separate document or integrated part of Nature Protection Studies.

Undertake any other relevant activity deemed necessary by the assessment
Project Component 1
Activities by Outcomes

Outcome 1.3 Status of protection for existing coastal PAs covering 6,392.9 hectares revised and plans for expansion of the PA network covering 2,301.2 ha in the Coastal area of Montenegro defined

Activities / Outputs:
- Necessary documents for revision of existing coastal PAs covering 6,392.9 hectares prepared and submitted for adoption
- Plans for expansion of the PA network in the coastal area of Montenegro prepared and submitted for adoption

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Outcome 1.4 Priority integrated C/MPAs established, namely Platamuni, Katič and Stari Ulcinj covering at least 2,301.2 hectares

Activities / Outputs:
- Studies on Nature Protection and other required documentation for establishing three priority C/MPAs prepared, including zoning applicable for spatial planning documentation.
- Consultation process ensuring gender balance provided prior to adoption acts on establishing three new integrated C / M Pas
- Legal instruments for establishing the new PAs are prepared and the adoption requests for the three new C/MPAs are submitted

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Activities

**Develop the Studies for Revision of the existing coastal PAs to be submitted for consultation with the government**

According to the Law on Nature Protection (Article 35) the revision of existing Protected Areas should be conducted in the case their borders are not clearly defined or data on target habitats and species are missing, as it is case with PAs in Coastal Area of Montenegro. The status of a Protected Area is usually evaluated on the base of Study of Revision and other expert documentation. Main aim of this activity is to develop Revision studies for the Coastal PAs, by coastal municipalities. Their status shall be evaluated on the base of following criteria: - characteristics of the PAs: authenticity and autohtony / naturalness, i.e. degree of originality, representativeness, i.e. the relic degree, endemism, uniqueness in its type, rarity; diversity, i.e. the richness in natural phenomena and processes, integrity, i.e. the functional unity, the attractiveness of the landscape, oldness, conservation; function and importance of protected natural assets: ecological, historical, cultural, educational, scientific and development aspects; endangers of protected natural assets. The value of a protected natural area shall be higher if that area is unique, rare in its type or appearance, i.e. has smaller geographic distribution, if representative in its type regarding its appearance or form in a given space and time, i.e. if it is conserved in its authentic form. Revision Study is **based on previously conducted Survey Campaign** and all data gathered over the time, but it should be develop as a basis for authorized government(s) in order to define borders, target habitats and species for a Protected Area.
Prepare the legal instruments for the **revision of the status of the existing coastal PAs**
In the case Revision Study conclude Protected Area has lost its characteristics why it has been designated for protection, responsible / competent authority shall propose adoption of the *Act of cessation*, as defined in the Nature Protection Law, Article 36.
In opposite, when natural values of the Protected Area are confirmed, new *Act on establishing* Protected Area shall be adopted by responsible / competent authority, as defined in the Article 32 of the Nature Protection Law.
In that way, main aim of this activity is to prepare appropriate Acts for protected areas based on outcomes and conclusions of the Revision Studies.

**Develop the Plans for expansion of the PA network to be submitted for consultation with the government(s)**
Since 70,544 .48 hectares covered in the Survey Campaign and nationally and globally significant sites for biodiversity conservation identified in Coastal Area of Montenegro, Plan(s) for further expansion of the PA Network shall be developed. These activities shall also identify gaps in knowledge, but also actions / activities for better protection of the Protected Areas and other sites important for conservation, such as future Natura 2000 sites. Consequently, these Plan(s) shall be formulated as *Action Plan(s)* for expansion of the PA Network, structured by Protected Area categories, territorial/administrative jurisdiction and required management form(s) and structure.
Develop 3 Studies for establishing the new C/MPAs

According to the Law on Nature Protection (Article 28) procedure for establishing Protected Areas (PA) shall be initiated with a (formal) request for developing Nature Protection Study (hereinafter Study).

Study contain: the description of natural and manmade features of (protected) natural asset, characteristics or values of the locality, the existing state of the resources with the assessment of their valorization, spatial and cartographic presentation of the distribution of most significant habitats and species (objectives of protection), the assessment of the state of nature, the central coordinate of the protected area, the opinion on natural assets to be protected, the proposal for classification natural assets by the importance / significance, the proposal for PA category and zones of protection (protection regimes), the proposal for delineation, i.e. borders of the PA with the borders of the zones of protection and protection regimes, the cartographic presentation of the borders of the PA, i.e. PA borders presented on geodetic / cadaster base-map issued by competent Real Estate Administration, the concept of protection, improvement and sustainable development, the basis for the management PA, the proposal of measures and conditions for protection in the PA, the proposal for actions, activities and services by protection zones and regimes of protection, the proposal for actions, activities and services that cannot be performed by protection zones and regimes of protection, the consequences upon the Act on establishing PA adopted, in particular consequences regarding ownership rights and economic activities, as well as approximate financial means engaged for implementing Act on establishing PA and other elements important for establishing PA.

Main aim of this activity is to develop Nature Protection Studies for 3 (three) priority MPAs: Katić, Platamuni and Stari Ulcinj Island in compliance with all requirements given in the Law on Nature Protection (2016) and by using all available data provided in the Survey Campaign, as well as data from other relevant sources.
Design the **zoning plans for the three new C/MPAs**

Proposal of the zones of protection and regimes of protection in future MPAs is an obligatory part of the Nature Protection Study. In compliance with the Law on Nature Protection, zones of protections shall be defined within the PA by following protection regimes applied: Protection Zone I – strict protection regime; Protection Zone II – active protection regime and Protection Zone III – sustainable use regime.
Main aim of this activity is to design and graphically present zones of protection on the base of all relevant data and by applying relevant zoning criteria and standards. Additionally, a list of forbidden activities in the zones of protection shall be also defined in the frame of this activity.

Ensure participation of at least **50% of women**

Project activities and stakeholders shall empower, *assist women in their role as local natural resource managers*, and identify strategies to help rural women achieve sustainable livelihoods, while allocating adequate technical and financial resources to support women directly in natural resource management and the control of environmental degradation. Enhance women’s access to education, with the relevant CSOs, project will support, strengthen and involve *women’s organizations* and networks working on environmental issues with an aim of sharing the awareness of both importance of nature preservation and the importance of women in the whole cycle. This shall be done by ensuring percentage of *women present at national stakeholders meetings* (especially local meetings that will not take place in the capital Podgorica) as well as in the developments of documents important for decision-making processes.

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Prepare the legal instruments for adoption for the three new C/MPAs, and

Prepare the adoption requests for establishment of the three new C/MPAs

The main aim of these two activities is to prepare Act on establishing 3 (three) priority MPAs, as it is required by Article 32 of the Law on Nature Protection.

The Act on establishing PA / MPA i.e. integrated C/MPAs shall contain: name, type and the category of the PA; borders of the PA with zones and regimes of protection; description of basic natural values of the area; the manner of protection and development of the PA; actions, activities and services allow or forbidden in the PA; measures and conditions of the protection of the area; the cartographic presentation of the borders of the PA and the name of appointed manager.

With the aim of preventing negative impacts on the PA, i.e. MPA, the Act on establishing PA, i.e. C/MPA shall also define the protection belt around the PAs, i.e. C/MPAs with adequate protection measures.

Apart from the Act on establishing PAs, i.e. C/MPAs, authority responsible / competent for its adoption shall be also supplied by the adoption requests for establishing the three new C/MPAs, if necessary.
Project Component 2
Activities by Outcomes

Outcome 2.1 Improved C/MPA management effectiveness in three newly established C/MPAs Platamuni, Katič and Stari Ulcinj

Activities / Outputs:
- Develop best possible models for C/MPAs management
- Develop the rights-based and co-management agreements for long term financial sustainability
- Design the Management Plans for the three new C/MPAs
- Develop the Financial Strategy to be integrated in the Management Plan for the three new C/MPAs
Thank you!