

Annual report

2020

NGO Eco-team

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ECO-TEAM
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

About us

Mission:Improving the environmental condition, and building the future where people will live in harmony with nature by the protecting of the biological diversity, ensuring the usage of natural resources be sustainable, as well as, promotion of reduction of polluting and irrational consumption.

Main goal: NGO Eco-team's s goal is the environmental protection, preservation, and sustainable usage of natural resources.

Projects

In 2020, NGO Eco-team has realized projects in the following fields: (I) protection of freshwater with a focus on halting unsustainable hydro power development; (II) energy and climate change; (III) public procurements in the environmental field. The review of the conducted activities in 2020 relative to current and realized projects are given below:

Project: Halting hydropower developments in the Mediterranean Basin

The overall goal of the project is to reduce the impact of water abstraction and unsustainable river infrastructure on biodiversity and the functioning of river basins.

During 2020, the following activities are realized:

- NGO Eco-team in cooperation with WWF Adria have prepared the comments on the Draft management plan of Danube and Adriatic river basin and delivered them to the Water Administration;
- In cooperation with NGO Ozon, NGO Action for social justice and WWF Adria, the comments on the Draft of local study of the location "Štitarička river" and the Draft of Strategic Environmental Assessment are prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism. As by this Study of location has been planning the building of two small hydropower plants (sHPPs) on "Štitarička river" in Mojkovac Municipality, the media campaign which has had a goal to make pressure on the decision-makers and turn attention on the topic, how would the Government and concessionaire gave up from the intension of building the small hydropower plant on this river has been launched. The campaign has resulted in the concessionaire's abandonment of the one sHPPs construction in the upper course of the river;
- The media campaign "Borbazacrnogorskerijeke" has been conducted over the Vijestimedia portal for a period of 15 days. The banners with the key messages of negative ecological and economic impacts of sHPPs on people and nature have been published on the Vijesti portal. 583 689 impressions have been recorded.;



One of the banners published on the Vijesti portal

- In December, the NGO Eco-team and WWF Adria, on behalf of the part of residents of the village of Bare Kraljske in the Kolasin Municipality, sent a complaint to the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro regarding the work of the

- Government of Montenegro, the Ministry of Economy and the Basic State Prosecutor's Office in Kolasin and in relation to small hydropower projects;
- An open letter was sent to the Energy Community regarding the sHPPs development policy in Montenegro by the NGO Eco-team, WWF Adria and the NGO Action for Social Justice. The aim of sending the open letter was to inform the Energy Community about the development of SHPPs in Montenegro, negative impacts on nature and people, about illegalities and irregularities of concession agreements as well as legal actions of non-governmental organizations in this regard.
 - The request for revoking the environmental consent for the construction of sHPPsCrnja in the Municipality of Kolašin (Bare Kraljske) was sent to the Environment Protection Agency by NGOs: Eco-team, WWF Adria, Parks Dinarides, Green Home and the Center for Protection and the research of birds;
 - Advisory assistance provided to local communities and environmental activities during the initiative for river protection on the territory of the Municipality of Kolasin.

Project: Keeping Balkan Rivers Free Flowing

The overall goal of the project is to protect existing free-flowing rivers in Europe by 2030 by new hydropower development.

During 2020, the following activities are realized:

- In March 2020, NGO Eco-team, NGO Action for social justice, WWF Adria and Coalition for sustainable development sent a request for making out of legal force the Decree on incentives of electricity production from a renewable resource and high-efficiency cogeneration.;
- The comments on the Draft of Law of energy have been prepared and sent to the Ministry of Economy;
- The media campaign regarding the Draft of Law of energy, by which were recommended harmful solutions for Montenegro citizens through the continuation of incentive fees of electricity production from small hydropower plants was conducted;
- In 2020, NGO Eco-team and NGO Action for social justice by the support of WWF Adria, have submitted to the Constitutional Courtin total four initiatives for constitutional review of provisions of Law on energy, which related to the sHPPs;
- The online meeting between the representatives of NGO Eco-team and WWF Adria and the Government of Montenegro was held on 16th July of 2020 on the government's initiative. Exchange of the initial assumptions in regard to the system of incentives of electricity production from sHPPs was an aim of the meeting. An economic expert engaged from NGO Eco-team informed the representatives of the

Government of Montenegro about the main findings of the previously conducted economic analysis, which proofing the socio - economic unjustification of above mentioned system of incentives;

- Through several appearances on national and regional televisions, also on public events, the wider public has been informed about the harmful impacts of small hydropower plants from ecological, social, and economic aspects;
- In December 2020, NGO Eco-team and WWF Adria sent an Initiative for stopping small hydropower plants construction and making out of legal force the Decree on incentives of electricity production from a renewable resource and high-efficiency cogeneration to the newly formed Government of Montenegro.
- In December 2020, the meeting with a Minister of Ecology, Spatial Planning, and Urbanism Mr. Ratko Mitrović, and the Secretary of state about burning ecological problems with a focus on sHPPs issues was held;



Meeting with a Minister of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism, December 2020, Podgorica

- In December 2020, the representatives of the NGO Eco-team held a meeting with Minister of Capital Investment and Minister of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism. The meeting aimed to find the best solutions of public interests in the process of solving the problems of small hydropower plants;



Meeting with a Minister of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism and the Minister of Capital Investment, December 2020, Podgorica

Project: Small hydropower plants as an ecological, social and economic problem

The project's aim is the preservation of free-flowing rivers and their ecosystem, cultural and social value, also the establishment of the system of adequate implementation of mitigation measures on already captured rivers.

During 2020, the following activities are realized:

- An analysis of measures to prevent, reduce or eliminate harmful impacts and environmental impact monitoring programs that are an integral part of the Study on Environmental Impact Assessment of small hydropower plants has been conducted. The analysis included 8 small hydropower plants (sHPPs) for which an environmental impact assessment procedure was conducted;
- NGO Eco-team in cooperation with six Montenegrin CSO(s) has sent an Initiative to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the purpose of defining of monitoring of environmental acceptable flows(e-flow)through a preparation of new Rulebook. Initiative has been accepted by Ministry. Meeting with Ministry had been held in order to agree on next steps in this regard. Conclusion of the meeting was that working group need to be formed that will draft a new Rulebook on the E-flow and through which the issue of monitoring the E-flow will be regulated.

- Summary of socio-economic analysis of the operation of sHPPs „Babino Polje“ and „Jara“ developed in the previous work of the NGO Eco-team sent to embassies, EU delegation in Montenegro and international organizations with the aim of informing them about the negative impacts of the established incentive system for electricity generation from SHPP to the citizens of Montenegro and local economic development;
- A TV show "Eko vizija" has been made by the Eco-team's initiative, the show has been dedicated to the sHPPs and the problems in this field. The show was broadcasted on the 10th of March on RTCG television. The show's aim was the inform Montenegro citizens and all other stakeholders about ecological, social, and economic problems, which exist as a consequence of unsustainable planning and the massive construction of small hydropower plants.

Project: Support to the local community in the struggle for free flowing rivers

The aim of the project is to support local initiatives in the fight for free-flowing rivers by providing advisory assistance and raising public awareness of the environmental, social and economic impacts of small hydro plants operation and increasing media attention to the topic.

During 2020, the following activities are realized:

- Both advisory and financial support is provided to the local initiatives against the building of small hydropower plants on free flow rivers in Kolašin Municipality;
- An educative movie "Prilika" has been made. The movie presents a struggle of the local communities for free-flow rivers, which provide basic living conditions to them.

Project: Through energy transition to the accelerated economic and ecological development of Montenegro II

The project aims to create public policy for faster decarbonization and energy transition in Montenegro, which should ensure adequate socio-economic development in Pljevlja municipality, but also in the whole country.

During 2020, the following activities are realized:

- In February, “Analysis of economic activities with the biggest potential of development in Pljevlja municipality” has been prepared;

- In January 2020. in Pljevlja two workshops with the members of the Just Transition Platform have been held;
- In July 2020. In Podgorica round table on the topic of sustainable energy policies and implications of the Clean energy package on the planning of energy policy in Montenegro has been held;
- Promotion of "Analysis of CO2 prices impacts on financial cost-effectiveness of TPP Pljevlja after ecological refurbishment" focused on the importance of carbon pricing as one of the most important tool which shall influence TPP Pljevlja work.;
- The initiative for diversification of economic activities in Pljevlja municipality has been submitted to Pljevlja municipality and Ministry of Economy;
- The initiative for publishing feasibility study for ecological reconstruction project of TPP Pljevlja has been submitted to the EPCG.



Meeting of the Just Transition Platform, January 2020, Pljevlja



Meeting of the Just Transition Platform, January 2020, Pljevlja



Round table: Integration of the climate and energy policies in Montenegro; challenges on the path of reaching climate neutrality, July 2020, Podgorica

Project: "Towards energy transition in Montenegro"

Aim of the project is to promote development of the energy sector in line with the objectives of European energy policy.

During 2020, the following activities are realized:

- In June, analysis "The possibilities of the realization of the concept "self-consumer" in Montenegro" has been developed, which showed which are necessary conditions, under which the investment in system of self-consumer is cost-effective for consumers in Montenegro;
- Two round tables and two workshops about self-consumers were held;

- In May, “Analysis on sustainable energy policy in Montenegro”, with reference to “Clean energy package” has been developed;
- In June, Recommendations for the development of National energy and climate plan (NECP) in Montenegro have been prepared.



Round table: "A role of the sustainable energy policy and energy transition in reaching bigger economic growth", June 2020, Podgorica



Meeting of the Just Transition Platform, July 2020, Pljevlja



Meeting of the Just Transition Platform, June 2020, Pljevlja

Project: “Monitoring of public procurement in the field of environment in Montenegro”

Main goal of the project is to improve transparency and accountability in the implementation of public procurement procedures in Montenegro in the field of environment.

Specific objective is to increase capacities of civil society organizations in the field of public procurement and the importance of combating corruption in the environment.

The following activities have been realized in 2020 :

- Two-day training for civil society organizations in order to engage them in proactive monitoring of public procurement in the field of environment and energy has been held in June;
- “Analysis of three cases of public procurements about the potential corruptive mechanisms and effects of concrete procurements” has been prepared;
- Five trainings about public procurements for the NGO Eco-team employees have been held;
- The manual about public procurements has been prepared;
- Web banners about public procurements have been prepared.



Two-day training on public procurements, June 2020, Podgorica

Membership in working groups

NGO Eco-team is a member of the following working groups:

- Working group for drafting the Amendments to the Rulebook on the Manner of Determining Environmentally Acceptable Flow;
- The working group for the making of Law on amendments on Law on energy;
- Technical working group for preparation of National Energy and Climate Plan.

Project in 2020:

Project: Halting hydropower developments in the Mediterranean Basin

Implementation period :01.11.2018 – 30.10.2020

Partners: WWF Adria

Donor: MAVAFoundation

Total approved fund Eco-team (EUR): 58,675.00 €

Project: Keeping Balkan Rivers Free Flowing

Implementation period: 01.07.2019– 30.06.2021.

Partners: WWF Adria

Donor: WWF Netherlands

Total approved fund Eco-team(EUR): 23,350.00€

Project: Small hydropower plants as an ecological, social, and economic problem

Implementation period: 01.11.2019 -01.05.2020.

Donor: USA Government

Total approved fund Eco-team(EUR): 5,266.00€

Project: Support to the local community in the struggle for free flowing rivers

Implementation period: 26.10.2020-31.12.2020.

Donor: USA Government

Total approved fund Eco-team(EUR): 4,686.00€

Project: "Through energy transition to the accelerated economic and ecological development of Montenegro II "

Implementation period: 05.04.2020 -04.04.2021.

Donor: European Climate Foundation

Total approved fund Eco-team(EUR): 20.430,00€

Project: "Towards energy transition in Montenegro"

Implementation period: 01.01.2020 -30.06.2020.

Donor: Europe Beyond Coal Network

Total approved fund Eco-team(EUR): 12.350,00€

Project: "Monitoring of public procurements in field of environment in Montenegro"

Implementation period: 15.12.2019. -14.12.2020.

Donor: Open Society Foundationthrough European Union

Total approved fund Eco-team (EUR): 9.998,00€

Publications in 2020:

- Analysis of the implementation of measures to prevent, reduce or eliminate the harmful effects of small hydropower plants on the environment and the environmental impact monitoring program, 2020;
- "The possibilities of the realization of the concept "self-consumer" in Montenegro", April 2020.
- "Analysis of three cases of public procurements about the potential corruptive mechanisms and effects of concrete procurements ", June 2020.
- "Analysis of economic activities with the biggest potential of development in Pljevlja municipality", February 2020.
- "Analysis on sustainable energy policy in Montenegro", May 2020.

Video materials in 2020:

- An educative movie "Prilika": [Prilika - YouTube](#)