

Annual report

2021

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 2021. NGO Eco-team has realized projects in the following fields: (i) freshwater protection; (ii) energy and climate change. The overview of the key conducted activities in 2021. relative to the current and realized projects are given bellow:

Project: Halting and Mitigating the Impacts of Hydropower in the Western Balkans

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

During the 2021., the following activities are realized:

- NGO Eco-team in cooperation with NGO “Da zaživi selo”, WWF Adria and with support of the American organization “The Nature Conservancy” (here and after: TNC) has launched an Initiative “Za našu Ćehotinu”, which has a goal to protect the upper part of the Ćehotina river in the Pljevlja Municipality, in compliance with the relevant national legislation. Also, the Initiative has aimed the creation of starting points for the valorization of the Ćehotina river in a sustainable end environmentally acceptable way, ensuring a future in which people will live in harmony with nature;
- Initiative “Za našu Ćehotinu” has been accepted by Pljevlja Municipality and procedure of protection has been started. Memorandum of the Understanding between the Pljevlja Municipality and organizations: Eco-team, WWF Adria, TNC and NGO “Da zaživi selo” has been signed in February 2021. Purpose of MoU is to regulate the further cooperation on the issues of the protection of the upper part of the Ćehotina river in Pljevlja municipality;



Meeting with the Major of the Municipality of Pljevlja, February 2021, Pljevlja

- With the support of WWF Adria and TNC, NGO Eco-team has provided the funds to the Municipality of Pljevlja for the preparation of the Study on protection of the upper part of the Cehotina river;
- In order to raise public knowledge about all the values of the upper part of the Cehotina river, in cooperation with WWF Adria and NGO Multimedia studio EHO an educational movie "Prirodni tok" was made:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHe-hMQqITk>
- Procedure for revision of the Đalovića canyon protected area in the Municipality of Bijelo Polje was initiated in cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism and Environmental Protection Agency. The Initiative was accepted by the Municipality of Bijelo Polje and the first steps according to the Law on Nature protection were conducted;



Meeting with the Mayor of the Municipality of Bijelo Polje, November 2021, Bijelo Polje

- In accordance with the previously submitted Initiative¹ for the adoption of a new bylaw, which would regulate the issues of the Environmentally Acceptable Flow (E-

¹In February, 2020., NGO Eco-team with support of six Montenegrin CSO(s) has sent an Initiative to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in order to define monitoring of environmentally acceptable flows (e-flow), downstream from the water catchment, through a preparation of an appropriate Rulebook. Accordingly to this Initiative, the round table between the representatives of the Ministry and representatives of the Initiative submitters was organized, with purpose of defining of monitoring of (E-flow). Initiative has been accepted by Ministry, i.e. it was agreed the establishment of the Working group, which shall make a new Rulebook of the E-flow

flow), NGO Eco-team in cooperation with WWF Adria and Ministry of the Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management has formed the technical working group in order to prepare the new Regulation of the E-flow;

- The Proposal of the Regulation was accepted and adopted by the Ministry of the Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management on the 25th of June, 2021. In accordance to the new Rulebook, the water users will have an obligation of the implementation of the continuously monitoring of the environmentally acceptable flow, as well as the obligation of the monthly data submission to the charged authorities;
- In relation to the previously sent Complaint to the Protector² of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, the Protector issued an official opinion, stating that constitutional rights of residents of the Bare Kraljske have been violated by the Government of Montenegro and former Ministry of Economy;
- NGO Eco-team and WWF Adria submitted an Initiative to the Government of Montenegro for the termination of the Concession Contracts for the projects of the small hydropower plants (sHPPs): sHPP Crnja, sHPP Ljubaštica and sHPP Crnipotok in the municipality of Kolašin in October 2021.
- The advisory and financial support to the local communities and ecological activists has been provided during the Initiative for the river protection on the territory of the municipality of Kolašin.

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 2021, the following activities are realized:

- In March 2021, NGO Eco-team with the support of the WWF Adria submitted the Initiative to the Agency for the Protection of the Competition in order to assess whether the incentives which the consumers pay for the electricity produced from

²In December 2020 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;

the small hydro power plants (sHPPs) are state aid and whether it is illegal state's aid;

- In June 2021, NGO Eco-team in cooperation with WWF Adria, organized the event on topic: "The small hydropower plants: the nature subordinated to the private interests ". The legal analyses of the concession contracts of the small hydropower plants projects, which has been conducted by the WWF Adria, was discussed with the decision makers on the round table, where the clear messages regarding the harmfulness of the sHPPs' projects linked to the economic, environmentally and sociological aspects, have been sent to the decision makers. Also, the round table was an opportunity to hear the voice of the local community which struggle for the river protection in their village, which have been endangered by the SHPPs projects.



Round table "The small hydropower plants: the nature subordinated to the private interests", June 2021, Podgorica



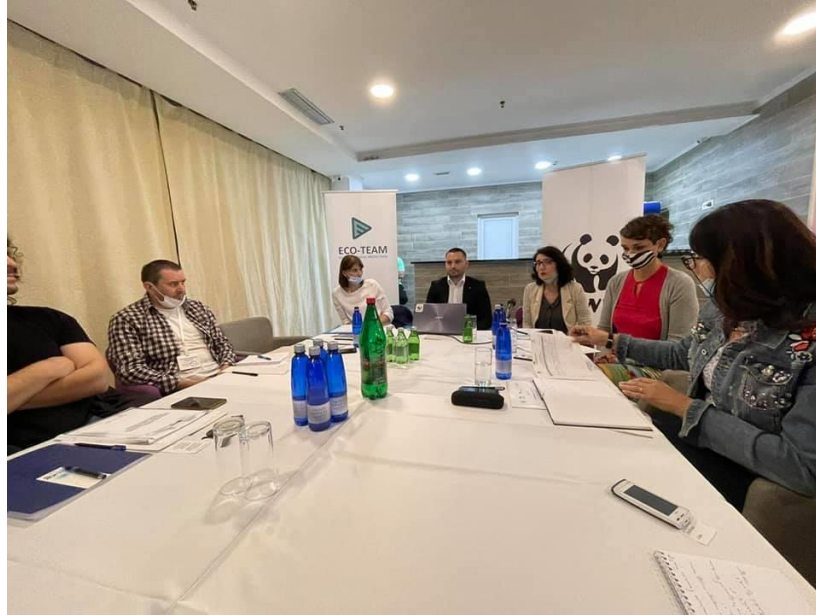
Round table “The small hydropower plants: the nature subordinated to the private interests”, June 2021, Podgorica

Project: Protection of Southeastern Europe Rivers

The overall goal of the project is that at least three initiatives for the river protection be successfully implemented in accordance to the DFP framework.

During 2021, the following activities are realized:

- In June 2021, NGO Eco-team in cooperation with Da zazivi selo and WWF Adria organized the round table “Protection of the upper part of the Cehotina river” in Pljevlja municipality. The event aims enabling the early involvement of the all interested parties into the decision making processes, participatory democracy and informing about the protection goals and benefits of the protected area;



Round table "Protection of the upper part of the Čehotina river", Jun 2021, Pljevlja

- In June 2021, NGO Eco-team in cooperation with WWF Adria and NGO Da zaživi selo organized the study visit of the upper part of the Cehotina river. During the study visit the local households were visited, with aim of informing about current activities on the protection of the upper part of the Cehotina river.



The meanders of the Čehotina River, Jun 2021, the municipality of Pljevlja

- NGO Eco-team in cooperation with NGO Da zazivi selo and WWF Adria has developed a brochure about the key values of the upper part of the Čehotina river;



The brochure of the values of the upper part of the Čehotina river

Project: Initiative for the protection of the upper part of the Čehotina River

The project aim is to contribute to the establishment of the effective protection of the upper part of the Čehotina river in municipality of Pljevlja.

During 2021, the following activities have been realized:

- Report on the implementation of hydro morphological monitoring of the upper part of the Čehotina river and the assessment of the hydro morphological status was developed;
- Analysis on mapping of potential management bodies and assessment of their capacities for management of the future protected area has been conducted;
- In cooperation with NGO Da zazivi selo the stakeholder research in the upper part of the Čehotina river has conducted;

Project: Civil society organization as effective actors in the decision making processes

The overall goal of the project is to support and improve the process of the EU integration of Montenegro by strengthening the capacity and knowledge of the civil society organizations and the media, as well as raising public awareness.

During 2021, the following activities are realized:

- Analysis of the status of implementation of projects of construction of wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in central and north region of Montenegro has been developed;
- The two one-day training for the civil society organizations (CSO) were held. One of them was held in Pljevlja, while the second one was held in BijeloPolje;



Training for the CSO, November 2021, BijeloPolje



Training for the CSO, November 2021, Pljevlja

- Brochure “Wastewater and wastewater treatment plants” was made, which contains all relevant facts about the importance of the WWTPs implementation from the environmentally and sustainable development aspect;
- Having in mind the insufficiently developed capacities and knowledge of CSOs and media when it comes to the way of involvement in decision-making processes in relation to WWTP projects, a guide has been prepared. Guide defines the steps and stages in which CSOs, media and all interested public can be involved in decision-making processes;

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

The project aim is to create a public policy for faster decarbonization and energy transition in Montenegro, which need to insure the adequately social-economic development in the municipality of Pljevlja and in whole country as well.

During 2021, the following activities are realized:

- The analysis “Implications of closure of the Thermal power plant Pljevlja on the energy sector in Montenegro was prepared;
- In March, the meeting of the Platform for the Just transition on the topic “Economic development of the municipality of Pljevlja through the just transition’s prism” was

organized. The meeting aim was to identify the key challenges and problems in process of the just transition planning as well as exchanging of the knowledge and experience on this topic among the local stakeholders;



Meeting of the Platform for just transition, March 2021

- The manual of the good practice of the implementation of just transition process was developed. The manual has distributed to the decision makers, both on the national and local level;
- Communication with the representatives of relevant institutions from national level started with aim of extending the Platform of the Just transition beyond the local framework's borders;
- In September, first National conference of the Just transition in Montenegro was held. The representatives of the European Commission, DG ENER, Energy Community, Secretariat of the Initiative for coal regions in transition, Mayor of the municipality of Pljevlja, representatives of the Ministry of Capital investment, Ministry of Economic development, professionals and colleagues from the other European organizations were speakers on the conference of the Just transition;



National conference of the Just transition, September 2021.

- In June 2021, Eco-team joined the Forum of the non-government organizations for the monitoring of preparation the Action plan for the Green Agenda for Western Balkan

Project” Supporting the creation of the public policy for faster energy transition in Montenegro”

The project aim is to contribute the creation of the public policy for faster decarbonization and energy transition, committing for the gradually coal phase out in Montenegro

During 2021, the following activities are realized:

- Monitoring of the process of preparation of National energy and climate plan. Recommendations for its development have been submitted;
- In April, the roundtable “The future of the TPP Pljevlja, the challenges on the path of decarbonization of the energy sector” has been held. The round table was an opportunity for the discussion about the future of the TPP Pljevlja operation, as well as realization of the ecological reconstruction project through the prism of the future energy development in Montenegro.



Round table: "The future of the TPP Pljevlja, the challenges on the path of decarbonization of the energy sector", April 2021

- The comments and recommendations with the focus on the concept "self-consumer" were prepared during the process of the NECP's preparation; The comments were sent to the Working group for preparation of the National energy and climate plan;
- The campaign about the benefits of the "self-consumer" concept has been conducted on the social networks. In this purpose two animated video were prepared;
- The educative campaign about the socio-economics impacts of the TPP Pljevlja operation has been conducted on the social networks. In this purpose two animated video were prepared;
- In October, the round table "The directions of the further development of the energy sector of Montenegro" was organized. The event aim was to support the open dialogue with more interested parties regarding the future and planning of the energy sector of Montenegro. The analysis "The further development of the electricity sector of Montenegro" and "The social cost of the TPP Pljevlja operation" have been presented on the round table.



Round table: "The directions of the further development of the energy sector of Montenegro ", October 2021

Project: "Steps towards the sustainable development of energy sector in Montenegro"

The project aim is to influence the public opinion and opinion of decision makers related to the development of energy sector in Montenegro.

During 2021, the following activity has been realized:

- The socio-economic analysis has been developed. The analysis identified the benefits and costs which generates coal sector in Montenegro.

Membership in working groups

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

- Technical working group for preparation of National Energy and Climate Plan;
- Working Group in charge for preparing and conducting negotiations on Montenegro's accession to the European Union on the acquis relating to negotiation Chapter 27 – Environment and Climate Change;
- Working Group in charge for preparing and conducting negotiations on Montenegro's accession to the European Union on the acquis relating to negotiation on the acquis relating to negotiation chapter 15 – Energy ;

- Working group for amending of the Regulation of activities, which emit greenhouse gases, for which the permission for emitting the greenhouse gases is issue;
- Working group for the monitoring of process of preparation Strategic Environmental Assessment for National Energy and Climate Plan;

Projects in 2021.

Project: Halting and Mitigating impacts of the hydropower in the Western Balkans

Implementation period: 01.11.2020 – 30.10.2021

Partners: WWF Adria

Donor: MAVA Foundation

Total approved fund Eco-team (EUR): 26.310,00 €

Project: Keeping Balkan Rivers Free Flowing

Implementation period: 01.07.2019– 30.10.2021.

Partners: WWF Adria

Donor: WWF Netherland

Total approved fund Eco-team (EUR): 30.240,00 €

Project: Protection of Southeastern Europe Rivers

Implementation period: 01.01.2021 – 31.07.2021.

Partners: n/a

Donor: WWF Adria

Total approved fund Eco-team (USD): 9.236,00 \$

Project: Initiative for the protection of the upper part of the Cehotina River

Implementation period: 01.04.2021 – 30.06.2022

Partners: n/a

Donor: The Nature Conservancy

Total approved fund Eco-team (EUR): 24.000,00 €

Project: "Civil society organizations as effective actors in decisions making procesess"

Implementation period: 11.06.2021 – 11.06.2022.

Partners:n/a

Donor: EU

Total approved fund Eco-team (EUR):19.986,53 €

Project" Supporting the creation of the public policy for faster energy transition in Montenegro"

Implementation period:01.01.2021 – 30.10.2021.

Partners: n/a

Donor: Europe Beyond Coal

Total approved fund Eco-team (EUR): 12.000,00 €

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

Implementation period:05.04.2021 – 04.04.2022.

Partners: n/a

Donor: European Climate Foundation

Total approved fund Eco-team (EUR): 23.000,00

Project: "Steps towards the sustainable development of energy sector in Montenegro"

Implementation period:13.07.2021.- 13.09. 2021.

Partners: n/a

Donor: Balkan Civil Society Development Network

Total approved fund Eco-team (EUR): 7.000,00

Publications in 2021:

- Report on the implementation of hydro morphological monitoring of the upper part of the Čehotina river and assessment of hydro morphological status, December 2021;
- - Report on mapping of potential management bodies and assessment of their capacities for management of the future protected area of the upper part of the Čehotina river, December 2021;
- Analysis of the status of implementation of projects of construction of wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in central and north region of Montenegro, September 2021;
- A brochure “Wastewater and Waste water treatments plants”, September 2021;
- A manual for participation in processes of the decisions bringing, relative to the projects of WWTPs, September 2021;
- Social cost of Thermal power plant Pljevlja operation, August 2021;
- The further directions of development of electricity production in Montenegro, September 2021;
- Steps towards the Just transition in Montenegro, July 2021.

Video materials in 2021.

- An educative movie “Prirodnitok”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHe-hMQqITk>
- Animated video: “How the citizens of Montenegro pays production of electricity”? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDQP6L9dOil>
- Animated video: “TPP Pljevlja, options of the further work” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IE_3uTtW2RA
- Animated video: “Prosumers”, procedure of system installation” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFZa-xPA0d8>
- Animated video: “Prosumers” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOcS_VS-8Qo