

# Annual report

2022

## NGO Eco-team

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**ECO-TEAM**  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## **About us**

**Mission:** To improve environmental conditions and to build the future where people will live in harmony with nature by protecting the biological diversity and ensuring that usage of natural resources be sustainable.

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

## Projects:

In 2022 Eco-team has realized projects in the following fields: (i) protection of the fresh water; (ii) energy and climate change. The review of the implemented project activities in 2022 are given below:

### ***Project: Support towards durable freshwater Protection activities in Montenegro in 2022***

The goal of the project is to promote and implement activities on the durable protection of rivers in Montenegro. Montenegro is home to some of the last free flowing rivers. However the rivers in Montenegro are exposed to various pressures, which affect the species that live in these rivers. Therefore, the mechanism of durable protection of rivers aims to initiate the protection of rivers with the aim of protecting their biodiversity values, establishing sustainable management, which will contribute to the sustainable development of local communities.

During 2022, the following activities are realized:

- The Socio-economic analyses for the future Nature Park "The upper part of the Ćehotina River" has been prepared. The socio-economic analysis has been prepared to provide a detailed description of the social and economic conditions in the area where direct or indirect impacts of the declaration of the Nature Park can be expected, an analysis of the attitudes of interested parties and users of the area towards the declaration and management of the Nature Park, an analysis of possible financing sources and costs of the future Nature Park "The upper part of the Ćehotina river".
- The Communication strategy for the future Nature Park "The upper part of the Ćehotina River" has been developed. The purpose of the communication strategy is to make recommendations for the future management body of the Nature Park "The upper part of the Ćehotina River" with the aim of successful management of the protected area through the inclusion of a wide network of interested parties and general public and the opportunities that can be created through joint cooperation;
- The educative movie about the ecological, culture-historical and social values of Bistrica River (Đalovića klisura) in Bijelo Polje Municipality has been developed. The educative film is available at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXkSeG3NWGo>
- The Municipality of Bijelo Polje, with the support of the Eco-team, initiated the procedure for the protection of the Ćehotina river on part of her territory.

***Project: Initiative for the protection of the upper course of the Morača River and its tributary Mrtvica***

The project aim is to contribute to the establishment of the effective protection of the upper course of the Morača River and Mrtvica River.

During 2022, the following activities are realized:

- The report about the identified users of the area suggested for protection, and other interested parties has been made;
- The report about the attitudes of local communities on potentially declaration of the river Mrtvica and Morača as a protected area, as well as of impacting the protection on social issues has been developed.
- All the conducted reports were submitted to the relevant institutions to improve the quality of the Study on the protection of the upper course of Morača and Mrtvica rivers. The main findings of the mentioned documents have been accepted by the relevant institutions and will be involved in the draft study.
- The educational movies about the natural, cultural-historical and other values of the upper course of Morača river and Mrtvica have been filmed.

***Project: Making upper part of Zeta River free flowing***

The goal of the project is to improve the ecological status of the upper Zeta river basin thanks to the dam removal.

During 2022, the following activities are realized:

- A multidisciplinary team has been formed that will work on the development of the Inventory of Barriers for the upper basin of the Zeta River, ToR and research methodology were prepared.



*One of the barriers on the Zeta River, Nikšić, 2022.*

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

The goal of the project is to support the Municipality of Bijelo Polje in the process of declaring the Ćehotina River on part of its territory as protected area.

During 2022, the following activities are realized:

- Provided professional and financial support to the Municipality of Bijelo Polje for the initiation of the procedure for the protection of the Ćehotina River.

***Project: The civil society organizations as an efficient actors in process of decisions bringing***

The goals of the project are to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations so that they are recognized as professional, responsible and efficient actors in the process of public advocacy and decision-making in the field of environmental protection with a focus on the implementation of wastewater treatment projects (WWTP), followed by increased media attention and raising awareness of the citizens of Montenegro.

During 2022, the following activities are realized:



- The round table "Management of municipal wastewater in the central and northern regions of Montenegro" was organized in Podgorica on May 17, 2022. The round table had 30 participants: representatives of institutions from the state and local level, public companies, non-governmental organizations, civic initiatives, universities, media, as well as independent experts.



*Round table, Podgorica, May 2022*



*Round table, Podgorica, May 2022*

- Media training "Wastewater treatment plants in the central and northern regions of Montenegro" was held in Podgorica on February 22, 2022.



*Media training, Podgorica, February 2022*

- In the period January - June 2022, an awareness raising campaign was carried out on the importance of wastewater treatment plants and in connection with environmental protection, sustainable development, improving the quality of life and preserving the health of citizens and EU integration. During the duration of the campaign, constant engagement of the media was ensured in order to promote the key messages, activities and results of the project. The campaign was reinforced by a targeted digital campaign to raise awareness that was distributed through the Eco-team FB page with the aim of maximum engagement of the selected audience (the public). The total reach of the campaign is: 413,865 people.
- Four animations were developed:
  1. Animation explaining what wastewater is:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=396FEUbMmAU&t=4s>
  2. Animation explaining what WWTPs are:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEh4vVpGUBg&t=2s>

3. Animation explaining the importance of WWTP from an environmental and EU integration perspective:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZIntjXP8A&t=24s>
4. Video – animation that explains the key issues in this area and shows the situation on the ground:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcdSvKlcTnE&t=3s>

### ***Project: Panda Labs Junior for Just Transition***

The project aim is to empower young people from coal regions in transition, raise their awareness on climate change and just transition challenges and actively involve them in problem solving.

Very often, young people from the coal regions are unmotivated to advocate changes directed towards sustainable solutions, therefore the most important thing is the establishment of an innovative culture, which encourages young people to get involved in green entrepreneurship and to eventually create green jobs and provide sustainable living conditions in the regions.

One of the most important outcome of the project is a program for education and development of entrepreneurship, both for high school students and university students aiming to encourage them to stay in their communities, and empowering them to found businesses or to work in emerging green start-ups.

During 2022, the following activities are realized:

- In January, the analysis “Just transition in Montenegro - challenges and recommendations” has been prepared.;
- In February, an initial sociological survey on the level of awareness among young people when it comes to climate change, just transition, innovation and green entrepreneurship has been conducted;
- During April and May, an educational program for high school students in the municipality of Pljevlja was carried out. The program was implemented in two high schools: Gymnasium "Tanasije Pejatović" and "Vocational High School".





*Conducting of the educational program into High professional school”, April – May, 2022, Pljevlja*

- Series of the educational webinars and conferences for students have been conducted;

**Globalno zagrijavanje**

- Ljudske aktivnosti u 20. vijeku, posebno spaljivanje ogromnih količina fosilnih goriva, su odgovorne za promjene u sastavu atmosfere, i dalje za promjene klime i za porast globalne temperature od oko 0,8°C
- Najveći uzrok globalnog zagrijavanja je što se uslijed sagorijevanja fosilnih goriva oslobađaju velike količine ugljen-dioksida, azotnih oksida, metana, ugljovodonika i drugih zagađujućih gasova koje jednim imenom zovemo gasovi staklene baste

**RADIATION OF THE SUN & THE EARTH**

**The Greenhouse Effect**

**Global projected temperature change**  
Relative to 1982-2001 average, °C

**Global projected CO2 change**  
ppm

**Observed temperature change**  
Relative to 1982-2001 average, °C

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT  
Rio de Janeiro 3-14 June 1992

STABILITY THROUGH COOPERATION  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
SOLUTIONS  
OF 2017

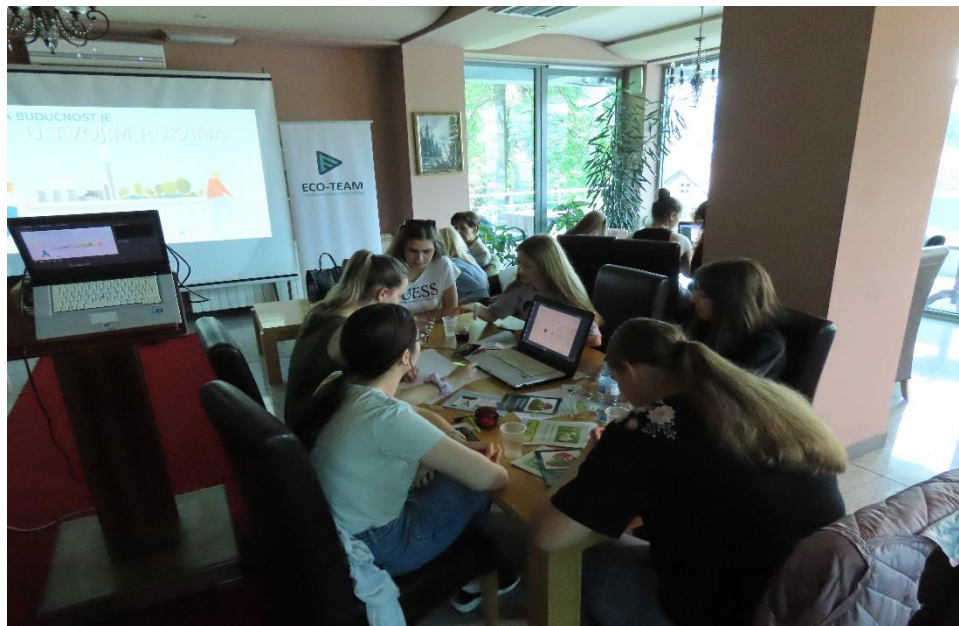
14:30  
04.05.2022

Educational webinar for university students, May 2022, Zoom platform



*Educational conference for university students, May 2022, Podgorica*

- In June and November, two hackathons for high school students and university students were held. Several teams, made up of university and high school students, have been competing in ideas generation for solving environmental problems. Young people used previously acquired knowledge through educational programs and presented their ideas in front of an expert jury.



*Hackathon "Your future is in your hands", June 2022, Pljevlja*



*Hackathon "Be a leader of the green transition and make the future safer", November 2022, Pljevlja*

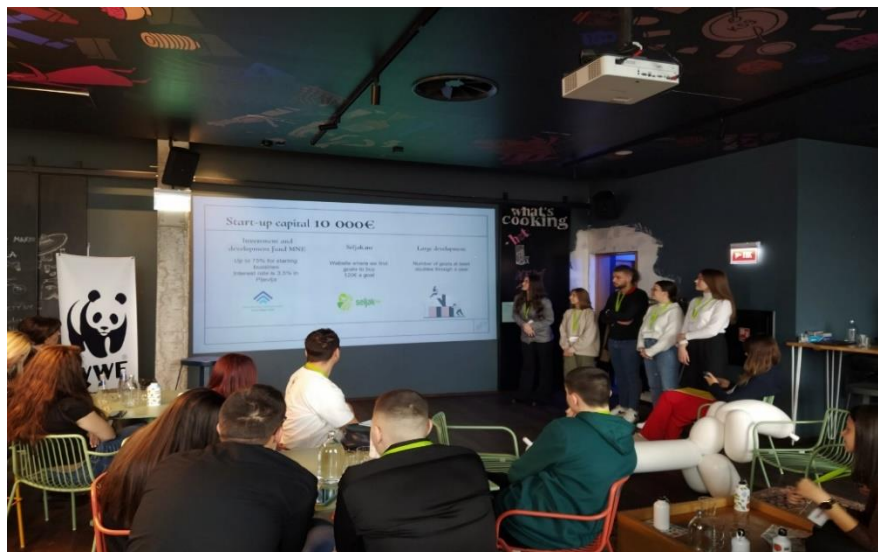
- In June, a round table "Youth, leaders of the green transition " was organized in Pljevlja. The event was an opportunity to improve and further develop cooperation between young people and establish good relations between high school students from the coal region and university students, additionally, the event also had the purpose of initiating a dialogue between young people and relevant stakeholders from coal industry, Municipality of Pljevlja,etc. i





A round table "Youth, leaders of the green transition", June 2022, Pljevlja

- In cooperation with WWF Bulgaria, a regional conference was organized in December, where the winning teams of the hackathons "Your future is in your hands" and "Be a leader of the green transition and make the future safer" took part. The event held in Sofia was an opportunity for teams to present their ideas from the hackathon, discuss political advocacy activities with peers from the region, and share knowledge and experience.



The regional conference, December 2022, Sofia

- In September, a simulation of the socio-economic council (ECOSOC) was organized in Pljevlja. The main goal of ECOSOC was to contribute to active cooperation in the creation of the Territorial Just Transition Plan in the municipality of Pljevlja, as a response to the coming climate and socio-economic challenges.



*The economic and social simulation (ECOSOC), September 2022, Pljevlja*

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

The goal of the project is to create a public policy for rapid decarbonization and energy transition in Montenegro, which should ensure adequate socio-economic development in the municipality of Pljevlja and the entire country.

During 2022, the following activities are realized:

- : "Recommendations for the preparation of the Just Transition Plan in coal region – Pljevlja has been prepared." These recommendations should provide an overview of all the needs for creating a just transition plan, goals and measures to be provided, sources of funding for these measures and policies, an overview of the key elements just transition plan should contain, taking into account European practice;
- "Analysis of carbon pricing system" has been prepared ca". The analysis provides an overview and importance of each instrument that can be used in the carbon pricing system, taking into account the practice that exists in the EU, analyzing the existing EU legislation related to CO2 prices and the obligations that Montenegro has in terms of the necessary alignment with the ETS Directive;



- A survey was conducted on the territory of the municipality of Pljevlja with the aim of identifying key problems for the development of specific economic branches in this municipality, on which the future economic development of Pljevlja can be based;
- In July, a meeting of the Platform for Just Transition was organized. The goal of the meeting was to identify key shortcomings and problems in the process of planning a just transition, but also to exchange views, knowledge and experiences on this topic among local stakeholders. At this meeting, the conclusions of the previously conducted survey in Pljevlja were presented.



*Round table "Just transition in Montenegro, where we are now and where we want to be", Pljevlja, June 2022*

***Project: Support to creation of the public politics for faster energy transition in Montenegro***

The goal of the project is to contribute to the creation of public policy for faster decarbonization and energy transition by advocating for the gradual abandonment of coal in Montenegro.

During 2022, the following activities are realized:

- Prepared the Manual of good practice in the implementation of the just transition process. The manual identifies the experiences of countries that have already started

the process of just transition, identifies the challenges, problems, good and bad sides that EU countries faced on the way to just transition;

- In March, a round table "Implications of EU policy and challenges in the energy market on the energy sector in Montenegro" was organized. The round table was organized at the national level and brought together representatives of the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Capital Investments, the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism, non-governmental organizations and other relevant parties. The round table was an opportunity to exchange perspectives on the development of the energy transition, but also to develop a common understanding and concrete steps in this process.



*Round table "Implications of EU policy and the impact of challenges in the energy market on the energy sector in Montenegro", March 2022.*

### ***Project: Youth and climate change***

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to sustainable development and a climate-resilient community thanks to the improved awareness and knowledge of young people about climate change.

The specific goal of the project is to educate high school students from Podgorica about climate change, followed by increasing the awareness and knowledge of young people from Podgorica about this topic.

During 2022, the following activities are realized:

- Developed comprehensive educational material on the topic of climate change. The educational material includes 6 different thematic units, structured differently. Educational material includes video animations, assignments, knowledge quizzes, etc.;
- A public campaign was prepared and video materials were developed that include several short video animations and visuals intended to inform the target audience about the impact of climate change on local communities and people's lives.

***Project: Towards Biodiversity Conservation and Strengthening Protected Area management of Cijevna River***

The goal of the project is to create favorable conditions for sustainable and better management of Cijevna River protected area thanks to improved status of endangered species and its habitats and identification of potentials for economic valorization of biodiversity as well as public raising awareness.

During 2022, the following activities are realized:

- An expert for development of a socio-economic analysis for the protected area – Natural monument “Cijevna canyon” has been engaged. The purpose of the socio-economic analysis is to examine the possible social and economic implications of the management of this protected area (PA) and offer the information that could facilitate the organization of the management of the PA.
- In December, a meeting with the representatives of the Municipality of Tuzi in order to get acquainted with the goals of the project was held.

## **Membership in working groups**

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

- Working group for the preparation of the "Law on the use of energy from renewable sources";
- Working group for the amendment of the "Law on Protection from the Negative Effects of Climate Change"
- Working group for the preparation and management of negotiations on the accession of Montenegro to the European Union for the area of the acquis of the EU related to the negotiation chapter 15 - Energy;
- Member of the Working Group for the preparation of the National Climate and Energy Plan;
- Member of the National Council for Sustainable Development and within this body:
- Member of the Working Group for Just Transition;
- Member of the Working Group for Climate Change, Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change;
- Member of the Working Group for Sustainable Development;

## **Projects in 2022.**

### ***Project: Support towards Durable Freshwater Protection activities in Montenegro in 2022***

Implementation period: 17.01.2022 – 31.12.2022.

Partners: n/a

Donor: The Nature Conservancy

Total approved fund Eco-team (EUR): 25.000,00 €

### ***Project: Initiative for the protection of the upper course of the Morača River and its tributary Mrtvica***

Implementation period: 28.06.2022 – 31.12.2023.

Partners: n/a  
Donor: The Nature Conservancy  
Total approved fund Eco-team (USD): 53.412,80 USD

***Project: Making upper part of Zeta River free flowing***

Implementation period: 01.12.2022 – 30.11.2023.  
Partners: n/a  
Donor: Open Rivers Programme  
Total approved fund Eco-team (USD): 54.000,00 €

***Project: The civil society organizations as an efficient actors in process of decisions making***

Implementation period: 11.06.2021 – 11.06.2022.  
Partners: n/a  
Donor: EU  
Total approved fund Eco-team (EUR): 19.986,53 €

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

Implementation period: 25.10.2022 – 30.06.2023.  
Partners: n/a  
Donor: WWF Adria  
Total approved fund Eco-team (EUR): 12.400,00 €

***Project: Panda Labs Junior for Just Transition***

Implementation period: 01.10.2021 – 30.09.2023.  
Partners: WWF Bulgaria, WWF Adria Serbia, Junior achievement Bulgaria and Junior Achievement Macedonia  
Donor: This project is part of the European Climate Initiative (EUKI)  
Total project approved fund (EUR): 588.717,00 €  
Total approved fund Eco-team (EUR): 118.909,00 €

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

Implementation period: 01.04.2022 – 31.03.2023.



Partners: n/a  
Donor: European Climate Foundation  
Total approved fund (EUR): 25.940,00 €

***Project: Support to creation of the public politics for faster energy transition in Montenegro***

Implementation period: 01.01.2022 – 30.09.2022.  
Partners: n/a  
Donor: Europe Beyond Coal  
Total approved fund (EUR): 9.960,00€

***Project: Youth and climate change***

Implementation period: 27.07.2022 – 27.05.2023.  
Partners: n/a  
Donor: UNDP  
Total approved fund (EUR): 8.150€

***Project: Towards Biodiversity Conservation and Strengthening Protected Area management of Cijevna River***

Implementation period: 01.10.2022 – 01.04.2024.  
Partners: Montenegrin Society of Ecologists  
Donor: EuroNatur i EU  
Total approved fund (EUR): 39.825,40 €  
Total approved fund Eco-team (EUR): 17.259,10 €

## **Publications in 2022:**

- The Socio-economic analyses for the future Nature Park "The upper part of the Ćehotina River", December 2022;
- The Communication strategy for the future Nature Park "The upper part of the Ćehotina River", December 2022;
- Report on the identification of interested parties and users of the area (Mrtvica and the upper course of the Morača River) proposed for protection, November 2022;
- Report on the attitudes of local communities and the impact of potential area protection on social issues, November 2022;
- Analysis "Just transition in Montenegro - challenges and recommendations", January 2022;
- Analysis of "Recommendations for the preparation of the Just Transition Plan in the coal region - Pljevlja, March 2022."
- "Handbook of good practice for the implementation of a just transition", July 2022;
- "Analysis of the CO2 emission charging system", June 2022;
- "Educational program for young people on the topic of climate change", September 2022.

## **Video materials in 2022.**

- Educational film about the values of the river Bistrica (Đalovića gorge) in the municipality of Bijelo Polje <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXkSeG3NWGo>
- Video how did the river Mrtvica get its name?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sFW3Rlczro>
- Educational video about climate change:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxPGoJqcCRw>
- Student video about positive experiences on the Panda Labs Junio for Just Transition project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jc4EezZxKWQ> Animation explaining what wastewater is:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=396FEUbMmAU&t=4s>
- Animation explaining what WWTPs are:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEh4vVpGUbq&t=2s>
- Animation explaining the importance of WWTP from an environmental and EU integration perspective:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZIntjXP8A&t=24s>

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