

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Nina Lončarević
Project Title	Ćemovsko field: a hotspot in front of our eyes
Application ID	28273-1
Grant Amount	5000 pounds sterling
Email Address	ninaloncarevic7@gmail.com
Date of this Report	13.06.2019. - 15.10.2021.

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Produce an assessment of Čemovsko field biodiversity				
Point public awareness to Čemovsko field richness and issues				
Legal protection				Legal protection of Čemovsko field was an ambitious and more of a long-term goal set in the project application, aiming to propel us to work intensively with decision makers and stakeholders towards awareness raising and influence policy making. Details on how we made a step in this direction are given in section 3 of this report.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

There were several unforeseen difficulties during the project. First is of global character, Covid-19 pandemic, which appeared in Montenegro officially mid-March 2020, and delayed fieldwork activities to May and June 2020 and also photographing for sticker photo album for June 2020 onwards, when the Covid restricting measures allowed travel to Tuzi municipality, etc. This delayed the whole project for several months, including the sticker photo album production and study writing, which continued only after the sticker photo album material was fully prepared.

Additionally, EnvPro biodiversity specialist and ornithologist stopped working in EnvPro in autumn 2020 and hence his involvement in the respective project stopped. This altered the dynamic of project implementation and workload distribution, which prolonged the project implementation as well.

Also, it wasn't expected that the arranging of printing of sticker album will be demanding as it was. Several printing companies turned down the job offer since some parts of the printing were supposed to be done in the neighbouring countries (Serbia). Also, the level of detailed preparation for the album caught us by surprise, and many iterations were needed until the album was sent to print. We dedicated a lot of effort complete the album and create it on a high standard, input a lot of work with the graphic designer on a suitable cover page and overall appeal of the

album to children, worked with the lector and the whole team for the appropriate text etc., all of which we believe added significant value, although it prolonged the project duration.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

1. Produce a biodiversity assessment of Ćemovsko fieldwork

The biodiversity assessment is sent as an attachment to this report, in its final draft form, up for second reviewing of executive director of NGO Environment Programme and biodiversity specialist. The prolonging of the project (due to extension requests for activities and also affected by Covid-19) prolonged also the creation of this study. I wanted to focus on providing a complete and detailed overview, offering as much information as possible, covering also ecosystem services and threats that I could cover from the desktop and short field research. I also wanted to focus on providing added value to readers of all profiles – citizens, scientists, policy makers etc., with substantial recommendations for continuation of work on protecting Ćemovsko field and its biodiversity. The assessment will serve to inform policies and decision makers, and will be communicated to them (Municipality Podgorica, Municipality Tuzi) directly, thanks to the cooperation established through a UNDP and EU funded project "Ćemovsko field: winning over the hearts of locals", which acted in synergy to the respective project, topic of this report, as well as to Tourist organisation Tuzi, Ministry of ecology, etc. Additionally, municipality Tuzi communicated to us they are eager to include study findings in their new "Local biodiversity action plan".

2. Point public awareness to Ćemovsko field richness and issues

Main activities under this objective were: a. educational bird ringing, b. children sticker photo album (sent via post to Rufford foundation's address) and c. educational video, which replaced planned in person education activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

a. Educational bird ringing was conducted with four different primary schools (PS): PS 29 November, PS Marko Miljanov, PS Dragiša Ivanović and United Kids International Montenegro school. Planned was also bird ringing with PS Pavle Rovinski but was postponed due to heavy rains for the spring, and after that, due to Covid-19, cancelled entirely. Photographs from the activities are sent as report attachments and some are available for viewing at the end of the report.

b. The sticker photo album was completed at the beginning of May 2021, and 1000 copies distributed to pupils of 4th grade PS. We cooperated with a construction company, Novi Volvox, which has a corporate responsibility department, on producing the album in this number and distributing to schools. (More in section "Any other comments?" below). Photographs from the activities are sent as report attachments and some added at the end of this report. The remaining 100 copies were distributed among EnvPro partners and associates, aiming to promote Ćemovsko field biodiversity to a large number of people. The list for album distribution is attached to this report. The PR done for the sticker photo album is also attached to this report.

c. The video was produced to portray Ćemovsko field and its beauty, hoping to relate to a broader audience and citizens of Pogorica and Tuzi. Promotion of the video was done through social media of EnvPro, using Facebook advertising, and also through the national television's ecological programme "Ekovizija", which streamed the video and covered the topic of Ćemovsko field biodiversity and threats to it. The video and TV RTCG promotion of it is attached to the report.

3. Formal protection

Achieving legal protection of Ćemovsko field after project's end was an ambitious objective from the start and it propelled us to apply for an additional project to tackle Ćemovsko field protection and issues. The project was complementary to the Rufford-funded project and focused more on conservation activities related to birds (clean up action of the area, bird houses), education and promotion of the area (though setting up of a bird photo hide, and a promo web page for it: <https://cemovsko.envpro.me/>) and cooperation with stakeholders – with Capital City Podgorica as a project partner, municipality Tuzi on which a part of Ćemovsko field stretches, the cleaning facility company, the landfill, the greening company and the tourist organization of Tuzi. Our efforts in this project were to work on creating a body that would jointly work on solving Ćemovsko field issues and protecting its biodiversity. We managed to establish good cooperation with both municipalities, and both communicated willingness to cooperate further on Ćemovsko field related activities. The sticker photo album was also distributed to municipality representatives and tourist organisation of Tuzi, aiming to continue cooperation with them on further projects on Ćemovsko field. We aim to continue working on this objective with local decision makers and also in parallel including the local community and stakeholders in envisioning and planning the area's future. A report from this complementary project is available upon requested, although in Montenegrin it can be translated to English if asked for.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

Through this project we involved about 40 pupils of four primary schools (PS) in educational bird ringing. They were able to learn about bird biodiversity of Ćemovsko field from biodiversity specialist and ornithologist engaged in the project, as well as about bird migration, bird ringing as a scientific method, etc. This was the beginning i.e., the establishment of cooperation with several elementary schools, to be prolonged later on with the sticker photo album. The album was distributed to 1000 pupils of eight primary schools: PS Oktoih, PS Marko Miljanov, PS Vlado Milić, PS Pavle Rovinski, PS Vuk Karadžić, PS 29 November, PS Dragiša Ivanović and United Kids International Montenegro (UKIM), and to several teachers among the schools as well. Additionally, 100 album copies were distributed among EnvPro team, partners, donors and associates (list attached to the report), including many from the nature protection department, thus raising awareness on biodiversity among some decision makers, NGOs and other bodies.

The educational video EnvPro created, aiming to educate a wider public and reach a broad audience for awareness raising on nature protection, reached an

audience of 11,800 people (includes short and long views of the video), through Facebook advertising, and it is not known what the reach of the TV RTCG promotion of the video was.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I plan to continue this work in the medium-distant future, focusing on research of plant biodiversity of Ćemovsko field, as a part of the Skadar-Zeta plain i.e., the Skadar basin. To connect to my master thesis "Plant functional diversity along a spatial climate gradient in Sweden", in my master Landscape ecology, I have the vision of continuing research on the topic of plant functional diversity in Montenegro i.e., Skadar basin. My intention is to firstly do a desktop review of existing plant research, specifically plant functional diversity, on the local, Mediterranean and European level, looking for most relevant and pressing scientific questions in need of an answer today, also taking into account my country's needs for research and thus choosing an appropriate topic focusing on this area, which encompasses Ćemovsko field as well.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

I plan to disseminate the study to relevant decision makers directly (through meetings or email communication): municipality Podgorica, Tuzi, agency for nature and environment protection and ministry of ecology, as well as other stakeholders to whom this is relevant: tourist agency Tuzi, and to all associates, volunteers and contributors to the study.

The study will also be available on EnvPro website and social media, where key research findings will be presented as well.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The grant was used July 2019 to October 2021 compared to planned dates July 2019 to July 2020. The reasons for extensions requested are described in section 2 of this report, and namely are Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions it imposed and increased workload due to termination of employment of EnvPro ornithologist engaged in the project.

8. Budget: Provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Exchange rate used is 0,9757, dating back to 19.06.2019. when the funds for the project were received from Rufford Foundation.

Table 1: Items and spending as originally planned

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Print of images for albums (x 100 per album)	1340	1373	-33	<p>The items printing of albums and stickers for albums were purchased from one printing company and were budgeted by them jointly on the invoice, hence the joint showcase of the spending.</p> <p>The total amount for printing of 1100 albums was 4499,19 EUR, and the company Novi Volvox, who was our partner and sponsor for the albums besides Rufford foundation, donated 3500 EUR, while the remaining 1499,19 EUR was covered by the project. 1499,19 EUR is equivalent to 1349,27 GBP according to exchange rate used, hence the -32.80 difference.</p>
Print of albums for small image collection (1000)	900		-900	
Design of biodiversity study and albums for small image collection plus print preparation AND project logo design	500	528	-28	These 2 items (album and packages for stickers design and logo design) were purchased from one graphic designer, hence the merging of costs into one cell.
Transport for activity organizers 2 persons x 8 events x 5	80	46	-34	The amount presented was spend for bird ringing activities, while most other activities (herbarium collection, photographing class in Cemovsko field etc.) were postponed due to CoVid-19, and replaced by making a promotional video for Cemovsko field (elaborated further in the table).

Transport for participants for herbarium plant collection (cca. 20 students)	200		-200	This activity was cancelled due to CoVid-19 and replaced by making a promotional video for Cemovsko field (see 2 nd part of the table).
Transport for pupils for 4 bird ringing campaigns (max. 20 participants)	400	142	-258	Out of 4 schools for whom transport was planned, 2 used their own transportation (United kids Montenegro international and PS 29. November from Dinosa who are situated near the Cemovsko bird ringing station), hence the reduced spending in this category.
Transport for participants of July citizen science event (max. 20 participants): 1 x 100 £	100		-100	This activity was cancelled due to CoVid-19 and replaced by making a promotional video for Cemovsko field.
Rings for bird ringing	100	100		To this amount added was another 400 pounds sterling for purchasing additional bird rings for the campaign (see item bird ringing – added below).
2 Mist nets	140	115	-25	To this amount added was another 100 pounds sterling for purchasing an additional mist net and plier for the bird ringing campaign (see item mist nets - added below).
Telescope: 1	1000		-1000	The 1000 USD planned here were spent on a) bird rings and b) professional camera for project coordinator.
Transport to field: - 25 days x 2 persons (NGO employees) x 5 £; - 6 days x 1 person (herpetologist) x 5 £; - 10 days x 2 photographers x 5 £	380	128	-252	This amount was spent for transportation costs of the grantee, while transportation costs of engaged project experts were donated in kind.

Daily allowance for fieldwork (food, drink etc.); - 25 days x 2 persons (NGO employees) x 10 £; - 6 days x 1 person (herpetologist) x 10 £; - 10 days x 2 persons (2 photographers) x 10 £	760	207	-553	Due to the CoVid-19 pandemic, which started parallel to start of our planned fieldwork, the amount of fieldwork days was severely reduced, due to firstly lockdown and various restrictions and instability that followed, one of the main being restrictions of travel (fieldwork site was in the vicinity but still in another municipality). Hence the reduced amount of fees for food, drinks etc. necessary on the field. To compensate for this, I increased the volume of the study to focus on gathering of literature data and existing data.
TOTAL (originally planned)	5000	2639	-2361	

Table 2: Items and spending reallocated

Added categories: ¹	Reallocation	Description
Bird rings	3578	Through the 1st budget alteration request, we requested an addition of funds to the bird rings purchase.
Mist nets and plier	121	
Professional camera	398	In the pre-project start budget alterations, I requested funds for the purchase of a professional camera, for photographing of species and landscape for the sticker photo album and study purposes.
Camera bag	17	The remaining 10,63 gbp for the camera bag was in kind contribution.
Bird ringing equipment	35	Includes poles for setting the nets, paint for the poles and wedges to fix the nets, etc.

¹ Funds for some of the categories added were increased / decreased as the need arose during the project, hence the amounts requested for reallocation do not always match exactly the budget alteration request.

Video	504	Through the 2nd budget alteration request, we requested a substitution of planned in person activities (herbarium collection and photographing class etc.) for recording of a promotional video of Cemovsko field. Significant in-kind contribution was provided for the making of this video, both from the video-making company and by EnvPro, who gathered 3 volunteer-actors to act in the short movie.
Graphic design	641	The planned amount of 500 pounds sterling was not sufficient for the costs that incurred later on, because many iterations and design changes were requested for the album, additional design of sticker packages for the album, change of design of album cover and design of a longer study of biodiversity than planned, which raised its design costs.
Facebook adds for video	20	These costs were requested in the 2nd request for budget alteration.
Customs administration	50	Unpredicted costs occurred when importing the mist nets and plier.
Import of purchased equipment	48	Unpredicted costs occurred when importing the mist nets and plier.
Equipment for video making and refreshments	26	Costs for refreshments, transportation and equipment for video making
EnvPro meetings	75	Meetings of EnvPro team for strategic planning, including continuation of this Rufford grant and overall Cemovsko field biodiversity conservation
Bank and admin expenses	60	Some bank and admin expenses were covered through the project, i.e., expenses of receiving the Rufford tranche, converting from international to local account, loss of money during an international transaction while purchasing mist nets and pliers.
Post expenses	9	Mailing the album with stickers to Rufford foundation
TOTAL (reallocated)	5582	Total spent £8221 +£3221 on budget

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

Upon finalisation of study, design and publishing, my aim is to start preparing for the next Rufford grant within this cycle. This grant would either support my potential PhD research in the area or be parallel to any conservation work I undertake. I want my

focus to be on plant ecology and climate change and to conduct research focusing on this. I would like to include, besides Čemovsko field, a bit wider area to which it belongs - Skadar lake basin. I am planning to conduct literature research on plant ecology and talk to potential mentors within Montenegrin academics and define a research topic based on this. I have already met with one potential mentor, conducting research through her PhD also related to Čemovsko field.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, the logo was used in the video and sticker album and publicity was generated through social media as well as traditional media channels.

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/EnvironmentProgramme>

Press related to the project:

- Ecovision 1:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JasJaUllFuc>
- Ecovision 2:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQ3u1VdeEkY>
(Mozes li molim te izrezati tako da je samo EnvPro prilog tu, negdje na 19 minut pocinje mislim)
- Vijesti morning programme:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOut7LB-U9Y&t=1s>
- Radio television of Montenegro (RTCG):
<https://portalluca.me/cemovsko-polje-nezasticeni-raj-za-42-pticje-i-1-153-biljne-vrste-koji-unistavamo/>
- Ecovision
<http://www.rtcg.me/tv/emisije/informativni/ekovizija/323240/ekovizija-01062021.html>

Video material created through the project and PR in the form of video is attached to the report.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Nina Lončarević – project coordinator and young researcher. I was in charge for implementation of all activities, team coordination, delivery of all outputs, organizing fieldwork and coordinating with researchers participating.

Ana Katnić – executive director and project supervisor. Quality control of project implementation and project outputs, providing mentorship and guidance in project coordination.

Mihailo Jovičević – biodiversity specialist and ornithologist. Mihailo led the methodological design of the project, fieldwork organizing, raw data collection as well as desktop data collection. He also provided all photographs for the study and album and is one of the planned study reviewers.

Budimir Rašović – photographer. Provided photographs for the album and study.

Mirko Jovičević – IT expert. Assisted quality control of project output – sticker photo album.

Vuk Iković – herpetologist. Data collection and desk research for reptiles and amphibians of Čemovsko field which is included in the study.

Dorđije Milanović – phytocoenologist. Provided phytocoenological data for Čemovsko field.

Borut Rubinić – ornithologist. Provided potential Special protection area Čemovsko field boundaries and is planned study reviewer.

Nikola Balević – volunteer. Joined several field outings, contributed with a few insect photographs to the sticker photo album and study.

Aleksandra Popović – volunteer. Joined several field outings.

Ivana Dragović – intern at EnvPro. Was involved in distribution of albums for sticker photo collection and sorted some of the data prepared for the study. She also volunteered, prior to her internship, in the promotional video of Čemovsko field.

Marko Miranović – volunteer in the promotional video.

Luka Šćepanović - volunteer in the promotional video.

12. Any other comments?

Statement of gratitude

I am sincerely thankful for the opportunity to implement this small project. It has thought me very much – not only on biodiversity of this particular area, but also has raised my skills for team cooperation, study writing, data collection. Very importantly, it has helped me profile myself for future projects, i.e., helped me determine what kind of future research I'd like to undertake as a young researcher.

Thank you very much once again, and I hope we continue collaborating through future projects.

Added value

To complement the now finalised project, with EnvPro team, I took the effort of applying to an additional project, supported by the EU through the local UNDP office which focused on Cemovsko field conservation and stakeholder cooperation, named "Ćemovsko polje - Winning over the hearts of local citizens". The project duration was 9 months, and it included bird conservation activities; a touristic / conservation activity of constructing a bird watching and photography hide: https://cemovsko.envpro.me/index_en.html , as well as active stakeholder engagement, education and stimulating of cooperation to protect the area. More about the project can be read here: <https://envpro.me/projects/cemovsko-reload>

Additionally, to increase the reach of our educational activities, we partnered with a sponsor, company Novi Volvox, which donated 3500 EUR and thanks to which, besides the donation from Rufford Foundation, we managed to print 1100 album copies, which got disseminated to five elementary schools. A bit more detail on the very distribution of the albums and reach can be found here: <https://envpro.me/2021/05/30/albums-cemovsko>



Image 1: Bird ringling with PS "Dragiša Ivanović"



Image 2: Bird ringing desk



Image 3: Sticker photo albums distribution in elementary schools



Image 4: Presentation of the album in United kids international Montenegro school



Image 5: Fieldwork 1



Image 6: Fieldwork 2