



Government of the Republic of Montenegro



*Foundation Open Society Institute
Representative Office Montenegro*



*United Nations
Development Programme*

PROJECT MONTHLY REPORT (February 2006)

A. SUMMARY PROJECT INFORMATION

- **Title:** “Strengthening Capacities of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning to Deal with Problems of Environmental Management”
- **Thematic Area:** Democratic Governance
- **Executing Agency:** Capacity Development Programme
- **Location:** Montenegro/Serbia and Montenegro
- **Duration:** August 15th 2005 – June 15th 2006
- **Total Budget:** \$462, 507.50 USD

Objectives of the project: Project will throughout its implementation address some of the most pressing capacity gaps of environmental management in Montenegro in the context of regional cooperation and EU integration. Therefore, it aims to assist the Ministry to develop structures, strategies, human resources, and management skills needed to strengthen its policy, regulatory and administrative capacity to be able to fully adopt, implement and comply with the EU Acquis.

B. PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

- In February 2006, Mr. Jernej Stritih, Regional Expert, visited Montenegro twice. His first visit was from **30th of January** to **3rd of February**. The project action plan (February 1st – June 15th, 2006) was developed and presented to the Secretary of the Minister. The action plan was accepted and it was agreed to serve as a guide for further project implementation. The coordination meeting was organized with CARDS project in which related activities were discussed and further cooperation was established.
- The benefits of quality standards PAN Parks, Mr. Stritih and CDP team presented to the director of National Parks of Montenegro. The standards are based on high quality of nature, good management, protected areas and partnership with the local community in developing sustainable tourism. It was agreed to start preparations to get the certificates of PAN Parks for the National Park Durmitor.
- The IT (basic and advanced) courses started on **February 6th**. The 22 of MEPPP officials will attend the basic course and 30 officials the advanced one.
- The Terms of Reference for the International Experts for Environmental Impact Assessment, for Introduction of Quality Standards in the Protected Area and for Logistic Assistant were announced on **February 9th**. The numbers of international experts submitted application.
- The Terms of Reference for the Communal Finance and Communal Legal Experts were announced on **February 22nd 2006**.



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- The second visit of Mr. Jernej Stritih started on **February 27th**. Mr Stritih initiated activities on objective based self-assessment and activities on visits of MEPPP officials to the related government institutions in Slovenia and DG Environment in Brussels, as well.
- Regional Engineering Expert, Mr. Franc Likar was selected to prepare the Terms of Reference for the Strategy for Construction.
- On **February 9th 2006**, the tender was launched for the selection of marketing house which will cover the whole promotion material needed for the Western Balkans Ministerial Conference “Environmental Policies in the Context of European Integration” including the delivery of the design of the visual identity of the event. Tender was officially closed on **February 22th 2006**, after which the Evaluation Committee met, awarding the contract to marketing house “Mapa” that had the most creative and comprehensive approach with detailed description of their vision of the visual identity of the event and opportunities for utilization.
- The Mrs. Kamelia Georgieva International Expert has been engaged to assist the CDP team and MEPPP in completing the detailed programme for the Western Balkan Ministerial Conference.
- The International Experts were selected to lead the three panel discussions for the Ministerial Conference, and also to guide, coach and support the Ministers in preparation of the Conference declaration for presentation to the EU Commission.
- Invitation letters for the Western Balkans Ministerial Conference “Environmental Policies in the Context of European Integration” (26th –28th of March 2006 in Montenegro) with invitation letter for presenters have been sent on **February 28th** to Ministers of Environment, Agriculture and Tourism from the regional countries (Slovenia, Croatia, Albania and FYR Macedonia, including Serbia and UN Administered Province of Kosovo).

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- The IT courses (basic and advance) will be held during the February and March of 2006.
- The selection processes for the experts’ positions are ongoing.
- Logistics related to the Western Balkans Ministerial Conference are in the full swing. UNDP Country Offices in the neighbouring countries have been contacted and are now linked together, helping out with the background information, contacts with the respective Ministries and all other necessary details.
- Organisational activities for the Western Balkans Ministerial Conference are in progress. Hotel has already been booked and talks were held with the hotel managers for the needed arrangements. CDP team will hire the Event Coordinator, who would ensure professional and efficient organisation of necessary details. Also, CDP team will hire the domestic consultant to work on collection of material and presentations made by invited country representatives and experts.



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PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- The Western Balkans Ministerial Conference “Environmental Policies in the Context of European Integration” (*Towards Strengthened Institutions for Sustainable Environmental Management in the Region*) will be held on 26-28 March in hotel Maestral.
- Mr. Jernej Stritih will visit Montenegro during the **week of March 24th to March 29th 2006**. Mr Stritih will take active role during the Western Balkans Ministerial Conference.
- During the **March 2006**, the International Experts and Logistic Assistant will start with engagements.

C. PROJECT FINANCES

Expenses on the project up to 28th of February 2006 are \$199,016.98 USD.