



Government of the Republic of Montenegro



*Foundation Open Society Institute
Representative Office Montenegro*



*United Nations
Development Programme*

PROJECT MONTHLY REPORT (March 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

- The interviews were organized for the positions of International Experts for Environmental Impact Assessment and for Introduction of Quality Standards in the Protected Area. The best candidates were selected, Ms Mojca Hrabar for the position Regional Experts for Environmental Impact Assessment and Mr. Matjaz Harmel for position of Regional Expert for Introduction of Quality Standards in the Protected Area. Their first visit was organised during the **week from 20th till 24th of March 2006**, when they had series of meetings.
- Based on received information and regional best practices, Regional Experts for Environmental Impact Assessment prepared and proposed the plan for further visits, including organization of two workshops for the officials from MEPPP, Local self government, NGO's and Investors, preparation of materials etc.
- Regional Expert for Introduction of Quality Standards in the Protected Area worked close with the senior officials from the State Enterprise National Parks of Montenegro. With CDP management team Regional Expert developed the activity plan.
- Mr. Stritih's, Regional Expert Consultant working visit was from **March 24th to March 29th**, during which several meetings have been organized with the Human Recourse Agency, senior officials from MEPPP and CDP team. On **March 29th**, meeting with the Director of the Human Resource Agency was held. The organization of one-day workshop on the topic “Objective based self-assessment” is agreed. The workshop “Objective based self-assessment” is planned for senior officials from MEPPP.
- Mr. Marko Fatur was selected as the best candidate for the position of International Legal Expert for Communal Finance.
- Ms. Kamelia Georgieva, International Expert was in Montenegro from **20th of March until 30th of March**. Ms. Georgieva worked closely with CDP management team in completing the detailed programme for the Regional Ministerial Conference and on the Conference Declaration.



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- The three International Experts were selected to lead the three panel discussions for the Ministerial Conference, and also to guide and support the Ministers in preparation of the Conference Declaration for presentation to the EU Commission. They prepared the conference material, which we delivered to all the participants.
- The selected marketing Agency for the Ministerial Conference “Mapa” provided the requested material, including: conference scenario, panos for plenary and panel sessions, folders...
- The Regional Ministerial Conference ‘Environmental Policies in the Context of European Integration’ took place in hotel Maestral, from 26th to 28th of March. The Ministers and Ministry Representatives of Environment, Agriculture and Tourism from the Western Balkans met in the presence of international organizations and European governments’ representatives to discuss opportunities for collaboration in the field of sustainable development in the context of the EU integration. Some of the distinguished participants of the conference were H.E. Ms. Marta Ruedas, UNDP Deputy Director, Europe and CIS, H.E. Lance Clark, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator in SCG, Mr. Hans E. Hageman, the Nederland Embassy in SCG Ministers from the region, Ambassadors etc.

The overall goal of the conference was to strengthen the dialogue on the ministry and donors’ level in support of integrating environmental principles into cross- sector policies in the framework of sustainable development and the EU accession. The participants of the conference intended to identify needs and actions for institutional strengthening in order to comply with Acquis Communautaire and to identify priority regional initiatives for improved environmental management in the field of sustainable tourism and sustainable agriculture. At the end of the conference the participants adopted a Declaration, demonstrating the readiness of the countries to collaborate in the field of sustainable development towards EU accession.

The Regional Ministerial Conference ‘Environmental Policies in the Context of European Integration’ was fully covered by media.

- The first group finished the IT course (18 MEPP officials). The final test was organized, and all participants passed the test.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Mr. Franc Likar, Engineering Expert who is selected to prepare the ToR for the Strategy for Construction Sector will visit Montenegro during the **week from 10th till 14th of April 2006** where series of meetings will be held with the MEPPP Minister and Ministry staff, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior Affairs, Faculty for Engineering, Montenegro Business Alliance etc.
- The Regional Experts for Environmental Impact Assessment will visit Montenegro during the **week from 10th till 14th of April 2006** where several meetings would be organized with officials from environment department from MEPPP. During Regional Expert visit the “Strategy impact assessment” workshop will be held for the selected senior officials from MEPP, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Tourism, as well.
- The Expert for the Introduction of Quality Standards in the Protected Area is currently preparing an activity plan for implementation of PANParks standard in the National Park Durmitor.
- Mr. Jernej Stritih, Regional Expert Consultant will visit Montenegro during the **week of April 17th 2006**. The Regional Expert Consultant is working on material for the one-day workshop “Objective based self-assessment” planned to be organized with cooperation of Human Resource Agency, on study visits of MEPPP officials to the related government institutions in Slovenia and DG Environment in Brussels, as well.
- Mr. Marko Fatur, International Legal Expert for Communal Finance will visited Montenegro on the **week 17th of March**. The organization of the meeting already started.



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- The IT courses (basic and advance) will be organized during the April and May of 2006.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- The Terms of Reference for the International Permits Expert Consultant will be announced in the beginning of **April 2006**.
- The selection process for the position of International Expert for the Communal Legal Consultant will be organized.
- The presentation of the ToR for the Strategy for Construction is planned for the end of April 2006.

C. PROJECT FINANCES

Expenses on the project up to 31st of March 2006 are \$229,588.95 USD.