GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Project Information

Project Title

Integrated management of multiple use landscapes/seascapes to promote biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, improve land and marine productivity and economic benefits to local communities

Region	GEF Project ID
Montenegro	11533
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Montenegro	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
UNDP	9729
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
To be determined	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	3/20/2024

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Chemicals and Waste, Focal Areas, Sustainable Development Goals, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Agriculture, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Fire Management, Ecosystem Approach, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Sustainable Forest, Sustainable Livelihoods, Sustainable Pasture Management, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Land Degradation Neutrality, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Land Productivity, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Community-based adaptation, Climate resilience, Livelihoods, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Nationally Determined Contribution, Sound Management of chemicals and waste, Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices, International Waters, Fisheries, Marine Protected Area, Pollution, Biodiversity, Species, Invasive Alien Species, Threatened Species, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Productive Seascapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Biomes, Wetlands, Rivers, Lakes, Grasslands, Financial and Accounting, Conservation Finance, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approache, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Communications, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Education, Awareness Raising, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Enabling Activities, Learning, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management, Targeted Research, Innovation

Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	72

GEF Project Grant: (a) 5,594,293.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) 531,457.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) 0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 6,125,750.00	Total Co-financing 48,400,000.00
PPG Amount: (e) 150,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 14,250.00
PPG total amount: (e+f) 164,250.00	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 6,290,000.00
Project Tags CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No	

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”.(max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Montenegro processes unique biodiversity as a result of its varied geography and favorable climatic conditions. Its mountains, lakes, rivers, and coastal areas create distinct habitats that support a rich and thriving ecosystem. Embracing both Mediterranean and continental influences, Montenegro is a melting pot of biodiversity. Despite these impressive numbers, Montenegro’s biodiversity faces significant challenges.

Problems and issues to be addressed:Montenegro’s biodiversity that is under threat requires urgent conservation efforts to preserve its unique species and ecosystems and its unique heritage from urbanization, tourism development, land use changes, unsustainable use of natural resources, pollution and climate change. The introduction of invasive species can have devastating impacts on native flora and fauna, outcompeting local species for resources and disrupting delicate ecological balances. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events are leading to changes in habitat conditions, their fragmentation and shifts in patterns of biodiversity distribution.

Project Objectives:Addressing these threats requires a comprehensive and proactive approach that is able to integrate the interests and conservation and the demands of the population. To do so the project aims to promote the integrated and inclusive management multiple use landscapes/seascapes to promote biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, improve land and marine productivity and economic benefits to local communities.

Approach to deliver the project objectives: The objective will be achieved through the project to:

- Support a shift to a more transformative integrated and inclusive planning and management of biologically rich landscapes and seascapes
- Aligning the baseline investments, initiatives and commitments with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan that is planned for integration with KMGBF Target 3
- Facilitate the alignment of policies, regulations, governance and capacities that support a multi-stakeholder and multi-sector approach to resource conservation and management
- Improve financial instruments for promotion of biodiversity sensitive nature-based solutions in agriculture, tourism and livelihoods

- Promote community and private sector participation in addressing the threats to key biodiversity, species and habitats through a participatory, collective and integrated approach that ensures benefits are equitably distributed
- Design and implementation takes into consideration the interest of women, youth and disadvantaged groups
- Build on the current baselines and take into consideration the lessons learned from previous projects.

What are the GEBs and other key expected results:Through this integrated approach, the project aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Improved management effectiveness of 70,651.40 hectares within seven terrestrial protected areas; (
- Improved management effectiveness of 50,000 hectares of KBAs and identified OECMs through national policies and practices;
- Improved management effectiveness of 2016.19 hectares within two marine protected areas;
- Restoration of 6,000 hectares of degraded forests, pastures and agricultural lands; (
- Stabilized populations of globally important species (CR, EN, VU on IUCN Red List) through improved protection, habitat restoration, monitoring and enforcement;
- Reduced threats and enhanced protection of threatened biodiversity, including endangered species;
- Mitigation of 3,988,848 metric tonnes CO_2 eq. over a 20-year period (to be re-validated at PPG stage); and
- Providing direct benefits to 40,000 people (50% men and 50% women) through improved natural resource management, sustainable agricultural, grazing and forest practices, livelihood improvement, small scale enterprises and climate mitigation measures.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

The project aims to promote the integrated and inclusive management multiple use landscapes/seascapes to promote biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, improve land and marine productivity and economic benefits to local communities. This will be achieved by supporting a shift to a more transformative integrated and inclusive planning and management of biological landscapes and seascapes. The intent is to facilitate and ensure a stronger multi-sector and multi-stakeholder effort that would also take into consideration the interests of local communities and private sector to address the threats to key biodiversity, species and habitats through a holistic and multi-disciplinary effort that will build on the current baseline and take into consideration lessons learned from previous projects. The baseline investments, initiatives, projects and commitments are aligned with the emerging National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan that proposes integration with the KMGBF Target 3. The project's intervention pathways entails improved governance, policies and capacities of institutions, improved financial instruments for the promotion of biodiversity sensitive nature-based solutions. Through this integrated approach, the project aims to: (i) improved management effectiveness of 70,651.40 hectares within seven terrestrial protected areas; (ii) improved management effectiveness of 50,000 hectares of KBAs and identified OECMs through national policies and practices; (iii) improved management effectiveness of 2016.19 hectares within two marine protected areas; (iv) restoration of 6,000 hectares of degraded forests, pastures and agricultural lands; (v) stabilized populations of globally important species (CR, EN, VU on IUCN Red List) through improved protection, habitat restoration, monitoring and enforcement; (v) reduced threats and enhance protection of threatened biodiversity, including endangered species; (vi) mitigate (to be calculated at PPG stage) mt.CO2e over a 20-year period; and (vii) directly benefit 40,000 people (50% men and 50% women) through improved natural

resource management, sustainable agricultural, grazing and forest practices, livelihood improvement, small scale enterprises and climate mitigation measures.

Project Components

Component 1. Enabling framework strengthened for safeguarding biodiversity and combating natural resources and ecosystem degradation in Montenegro

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
900,000.00	7,200,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1: Enabling conditions created for biodiversity conservation compliant Integrated and inclusive natural resource management planning. This will be measured by:

(i) Functional coordination mechanisms established and operational at national and municipal levels for integrated and gender inclusive planning landscape/seascape planning
(ii) Number of gender sensitive policies, plans, regulations and standards reviewed and developed to support integrated landscape/seascape planning, mainstreaming of biodiversity in sector policies and economic development planning
(iii) Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) policy, guidelines, regulations and management structures approved and under implementation
(iv) Monitoring system developed with standards, protocols and procedures for assessing the effectiveness national and municipal policies, programs and plans functional
(v) Institutional capacities of key sector institutions increased by 10 points from baselines as measured by UNDP capacity development scorecard with 100 number of people trained

Output:

Output 1.1. Inter-sectoral coordination and governance strengthened to oversee multi-sectoral landscape/seascape planning and mainstreaming financing mechanisms for delivery of international obligations for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation

Output 1.2 Policy and regulatory amendments, plans, guidelines and planning frameworks to support integrated gender inclusive landscape/seascape planning, mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services in development planning and practice,

Output 1.3 Development of a common policy, guidelines and regulatory framework for OECMs to create a nationally expanded conservation area network to improve conservation outcomes and enhance habitat connectivity.

Output 1.4 Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms established to assess effectiveness of state level policies, programs and plans in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and climate adaptation.

Output 1.5. Roll out of gender focused capacity building for government officers, extension staff, community groups, NGOs, etc., plus technology transfer and equipment for monitoring and mainstreaming of biodiversity ensuring that training and extension programs are gender-focused and gender-responsive

Component 2: Promotion of enhanced ecological, biological and social benefits from landscape/ seascape planning and management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
3,100,000.00	27,400,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2: Ecosystem and nature-based solutions that generate global environmental benefits and livelihoods developed and implemented across landscapes and seascapes. This will be measured by:

(i) Integrated landscape/ seascape plans developed and approved covering 215,750 hectares in 5 clusters

(ii) Improved management effectiveness of 70,651.40 hectares of terrestrial PAs and 2016.19 hectares of marine PAs

(iii) 50,000 Hectares of OECMs identified, management plans prepared and under implementation

(iv) At least 3,000 hectares of degraded forest, grazing and fire and IAS damaged land restored

(v) At least 3,000 hectares of degraded agricultural land under restored under SLM in production systems

(vi) 500 number of community members, trained and undertaking SLM practices

(vii) Resource based assessments, financial solutions and resource mobilization strategy (ies) developed

(*viii) At least five number of nature-based livelihood and value chain solutions implemented in cooperation with the private sector, with at least two specifically focusing on women groups.*

(ix) 3,988,848 tonnes CO_2 eq mitigated over 20 year period

Output:

Output 2.1: Participatory mapping of biological, social, environmental, economic and institutional features of selected pilot landscapes/seascapes to development baselines biodiversity values, resource conditions, resource use and threats

Output 2.2.

Integrated and inclusive and gender supportive landscape/seascape plans developed and approved

Output 2.3. Ecological restoration of degraded and fragmented areas to enhance biodiversity, ecosystem services and habitat connectivity

Output 2.4. Community based sustainable and management, sustainable climate resilient agriculture, sustainable livelihoods and small and micro-business enterprises developed, tested and implemented, with special emphasis on investments that benefit women and disadvantaged groups

Output 2.5. Resource gap assessed, financial solutions and resource mobilisation strategy developed and tested for ensuring sustainability of nature-based investments

Component 3. Strengthening information and monitoring system for GBF and SDG-s related targets

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
650,000.00	5,900,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3: Streamlined and integrated information and monitoring system at the national level that takes into consideration the decentralized governance system in Montenegro for use in decision-making, planning and reporting. This will be measured by:

(*i) Environmental information and monitoring system fully operational, staffed and with clear procedures and data collection and monitoring data uploaded for the project demonstration landscapes/seascapes*

(ii) 30 number of people trained and actively engaged in data collection and monitoring

(iii) Environmental information portal functional, updated and accessible to decision-makers

Output:

Output 3.1. Analysis of current environmental information, operating and monitoring systems for GBF and SDG related targets to enable streamlined data collection and sharing to eliminate duplication and fill data gaps.

Output 3.2 Defining, updating, and improving nationally appropriate environmental indicators, data, and targets to assess environmental conditions and trends for improved monitoring and decision-making in relation to GBF and SDG related targets

Output 3.3 Providing training on data collection and management for monitoring framework, including use of the UNEP Live platform.

Output 3.4

Establishing/updating an Environment Information Portal to publish environmental data, information, and geospatial information (e.g. GIS) in line with monitoring framework for GBF and SDG-s related targets

Component 4: Knowledge management and replication

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
411,898.00	3,300,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4: Enhanced gender-sensitive learning, and knowledge-sharing on mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation practices for agriculture, forest, fisheries, tourism and pasture lands and community livelihoods. This will be measured by:

(i) At least 50% of sampled population aware of threats and benefits of nature-friendly activities as indicated by KAP survey

(ii) At least 10 good practices of nature-based solutions codified, adapted and disseminated

(iii) At least 10 number of knowledge sharing events completed

Output:

- Output 4.1. Gender sensitive awareness and communication plan implementation to increase stakeholder appreciation of biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services protection and nature-based solutions Output 4.2 Knowledge management on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management resilience and biodiversity conservation for landscapes promote learning and replication.

  Output 4.3: Best practices and lessons learned for addressing biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management and ecosystem degradation exchanged through national and regional cooperation to promote scaling up and replication

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)

266,000.00	2,200,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 5: Impact monitoring to promote adaptive management. This will be measured by:

(i) Adaptive management measures applied to adjust changing needs.

(ii) MTR evaluation recommendations addressed effectively

Output:

Output 5.1: M&E system supports project impact assessment including gender and youth mainstreaming

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Component 1. Enabling framework strengthened for safeguarding biodiversity and combating natural resources and ecosystem degradation in Montenegro	900,000.00	7,200,000.00
Component 2: Promotion of enhanced ecological, biological and social benefits from landscape/ seascape planning and management	3,100,000.00	27,400,000.00
Component 3. Strengthening information and monitoring system for GBF and SDG-s related targets	650,000.00	5,900,000.00
Component 4: Knowledge management and replication	411,898.00	3,300,000.00
M&E	266,000.00	2,200,000.00
Subtotal	**5,327,898.00**	**46,000,000.00**
Project Management Cost	266,395.00	2,400,000.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**5,594,293.00**	**48,400,000.00**

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Background

Diversity of geological base, landscape, climate and soil, as well as the very position of Montenegro on the Balkan peninsula and Adriatic sea, created conditions for formation of biological diversity with very high values, that puts Montenegro among biological "hot-spots" of Europe and world biodiversity. With approximately 3,250 plant species, Montenegro stands as one of the most floristically diverse regions in the Balkan Peninsula. Additionally, the country is home to 297 out of the 526 bird species found in Europe, further emphasizing its significance in avian diversity. Montenegro proudly boasts a total of 13.22% of land under terrestrial protected areas, and 1.79% under marine protected areas, including five national parks, nine nature parks (out of which three are marine protected areas) and a suite of smaller protected areas like monuments of nature and other categories for safeguarding Montenegro's natural treasures. The unique biodiversity of Montenegro is a result of its varied geography and favorable climatic conditions. Its mountains, lakes, rivers, and coastal areas create distinct habitats that support a rich and thriving ecosystem. Embracing both Mediterranean and continental influences, Montenegro is a melting pot of biodiversity. Despite these impressive numbers, Montenegro's biodiversity faces significant challenges. Climate change poses a severe threat, leading to shifts in vegetation zones, alterations in species distribution, and habitat fragmentation. The delicate balance of Montenegro's biodiversity is hanging in the balance, necessitating urgent conservation efforts to preserve its unique natural heritage. Uncontrolled urbanization and tourism development, changes in land use practices, unsustainable use of natural resources, pollution, introduction of invasive species, and the impact of climate change are major threats to the country's biodiversity. The introduction of invasive species can have devastating impacts on native flora and fauna, outcompeting local species for resources and disrupting delicate ecological balances. Although, there has been little research on invasive alien species, Montenegro's status as a biodiversity hotspot makes it particularly vulnerable to the establishment and spread of invasive species. Furthermore, the impact of climate change poses significant challenges to Montenegro's biodiversity. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events can lead to changes in habitat conditions, their fragmentation and shifts in patterns of biodiversity distribution. Montenegro's unique location in the Balkans, combined with its diverse topography, makes it highly susceptible to climate-related impacts. Freshwater ecosystems, particularly those inhabited by amphibians living in surface waters, are particularly susceptible to climate change. The combination of extended dry periods followed by extreme rainfall can lead to a reduction in amphibian and reptile populations in specific areas, putting them at risk. Additionally, rising temperatures can accelerate eutrophication in mountain lakes, resulting in their withdrawal or even disappearance. To address these threats, Montenegro has implemented conservation efforts to protect its valuable biodiversity. The country has established protected areas and national parks, increasing the surface area under protection to safeguard key habitats and species. To promote biodiversity and ecosystem conservation the project considered two approaches. The first, focused on expansion of the Protected Area (PA) system, either through expansion of existing PAs or creating new ones in areas that were KBAs or rich in biodiversity. This strategy was considered unacceptable by the Government for the following reasons: (i) be politically undesirable; (ii) places restrictions on current community use of resources and create antagonism to the PAs, (iii) would be narrow and sectoral in approach and unable to link with agricultural and other land use practices, policies and institutions that occur outside the PAs, but still have a major influence on management of PA resources, and (iv) likely that PAs would remain isolated from local level planning and budgeting systems. The alternate solution, that was more acceptable was to promote a more holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development, where the PAs and the multiple use landscapes around it would be an integral part of the planning and budgeting systems that operate at a regional level. In doing so, the intent of this alternate approach was to ensure that: (a) linkages between the land and sea, that influence each other are recognized as integral to management of large tracts of land and sea; (b) it provides a framework for balancing competing demands and integrating sectoral policies related to multiple land uses that operate in the region, and influence and impact on the PA themselves; (c) it provides an opportunity for promoting multi-sectoral governance arrangements that helps to negotiate and manage the competing demands at the boarder landscape/seascape; and (iv) it involves local communities living in and around these high biodiversity areas as partners in the conservation efforts, while ensuring that their livelihood and resource needs are not compromised, rather are met through a more sustainable and nature-friendly manner.

Project Areas

Three target landscapes/seascapes have been identified for project interventions on the basis of the following characteristics: (i) landscapes/seascapes of global significance; (ii) biological and ecological values, in particular to address gaps in ecological representation (and can include KBAs or other important areas for conservation; (iii) options for defining clusters of OECMs and other conservation value areas; (iv) opportunities for establishing connectivity between PAs, KBAs and potential OECMs; (v) intricate relationships between different habitat types/ecosystems/productive areas that are critical for the delivery of key ecosystem services; (vi) economic potential in terms of building supplementary incomes for local communities, in particular for women and disadvantaged groups; and (vii) existence of effective institutional structures (or interest in forming such structures) that can serve as a vehicle for the planning and management of landscapes/seascapes, etc. Key features of the three target landscapes/seascapes are discussed below:

Northern Landscape (consisting of the Kovač, Ljubišnja and Proscenske mountains and Ćehotina river). This includes the **Kovač Mountain** that has 11 types of NATURA 2000 habitats. The majority of the area is covered by Mountain Hay Meadows, while species-rich grasslands of Dry Heath (*Nardus stricta*) on silicate substrates of mountainous regions and Calcareous Rocky Outcrops with Chasmophytic vegetation are recorded only at one location each. This zone hosts excellent stands of Illyrian Beech Forests and Acidophilous Mountain Spruce Forests (*Vaccinio-Piceetea*). This underscores the significant importance of the area in terms of habitats. The area of **Ljubišnja** is an Emerald, IPA, IBA site with 10 types of NATURA 2000 habitats. The most significant are Acidophilous Mountain Spruce Forests (*Vaccinio-Piceetea*), which exhibit excellent representativeness and rich biodiversity. Ljubišnja is the most important mountain in Montenegro for the Ural owl, while it is also extremely important for the little owl and the mountain cuckoo owl, the deaf grouse, the woodpecker, the three-toed woodpecker, and many other endangered and protected species. **River Ćehotina** is already and EMERALD and IBA site. The natural/ecological characteristics and values/features of the area of the confirm the presence of nationally and internationally significant habitats and species, not only in the aquatic realm (*Hucho hucho* - huchen and other fish species, as well as crayfish and other aquatic organisms) but also in the terrestrial part of this protected area In the area of Ćehotina River, there are recorded 9 types of NATURA 2000 habitats, with the dominance of Alluvial Forests of Black Alder and Mountain.

Western Landscape/Seascape (consisting of Orijen and Lovćen Mountains, Boka Bay and Luštica Peninsula)**:** The most important areas regarding biodiversity in Zone 2 are: **Orjen Nature Park** which protects the part of the KBA that belongs to this municipality**.** Orjen is of significance for the following biodiversity groups: vascular plants, mosses, fungi, and invertebrates. In the limited area of Orjen, 15 types of NATURA 2000 habitats are found. Carbonate rocks with hemicryptophyte vegetation exhibit floristic poverty but a high degree of endemism. In the village of Kruševice, at a biologically and culturally significant location near the pond Lastva, at least 8 internationally and nationally significant species of bats have been recorded, including the very rare forest species *Myotis bechsteinii*. In the immediate vicinity, there is a maternity colony of this species. **Pond Lastva** represents an exceptional habitat for bats, providing them primarily with food. It is an oasis in the rugged karst covered with shrubby vegetation, connected to pastures and agricultural land on the northern side and mature beech forests on the southern side. **Kotor/Tivat/Lovćen:** The Bay of Kotor is a significant area for marine biodiversity and marine habitats, with detected diversity centers for the following groups: vascular plants, terrestrial habitats, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, marine organisms, and marine habitats. **Tivat Saltpans,** which is nationally protected as Special Protected Reserve but also is Ramsar area, are an exceptionally significant area in the context of preserving halophytic vegetation that inhabits the muddy-clay substrate. **Platamuni MPA** contains significant marine and coastal species and habitats. It has a very high biological potential that needs protection and plays a significant role as a rich fishing resource. Its rich biodiversity features include: Priority habitats for Europe like seagrass meadows in the Zukovak bay around the Calaft cliffs , Cape Platamuni and Velika Krekavica bay and amazing sea caves with underwater entrances that provide shelter to the endemic Monk seal. **National Park Lovćen.** The geographical position of Lovćen, influenced by three climates - Mediterranean, continental, and mountainous, has resulted in the richness and diversity of its plant life. The National Park includes a large number of endemics, rare plants, medicinal, aromatic, honey-bearing, and decorative plants.

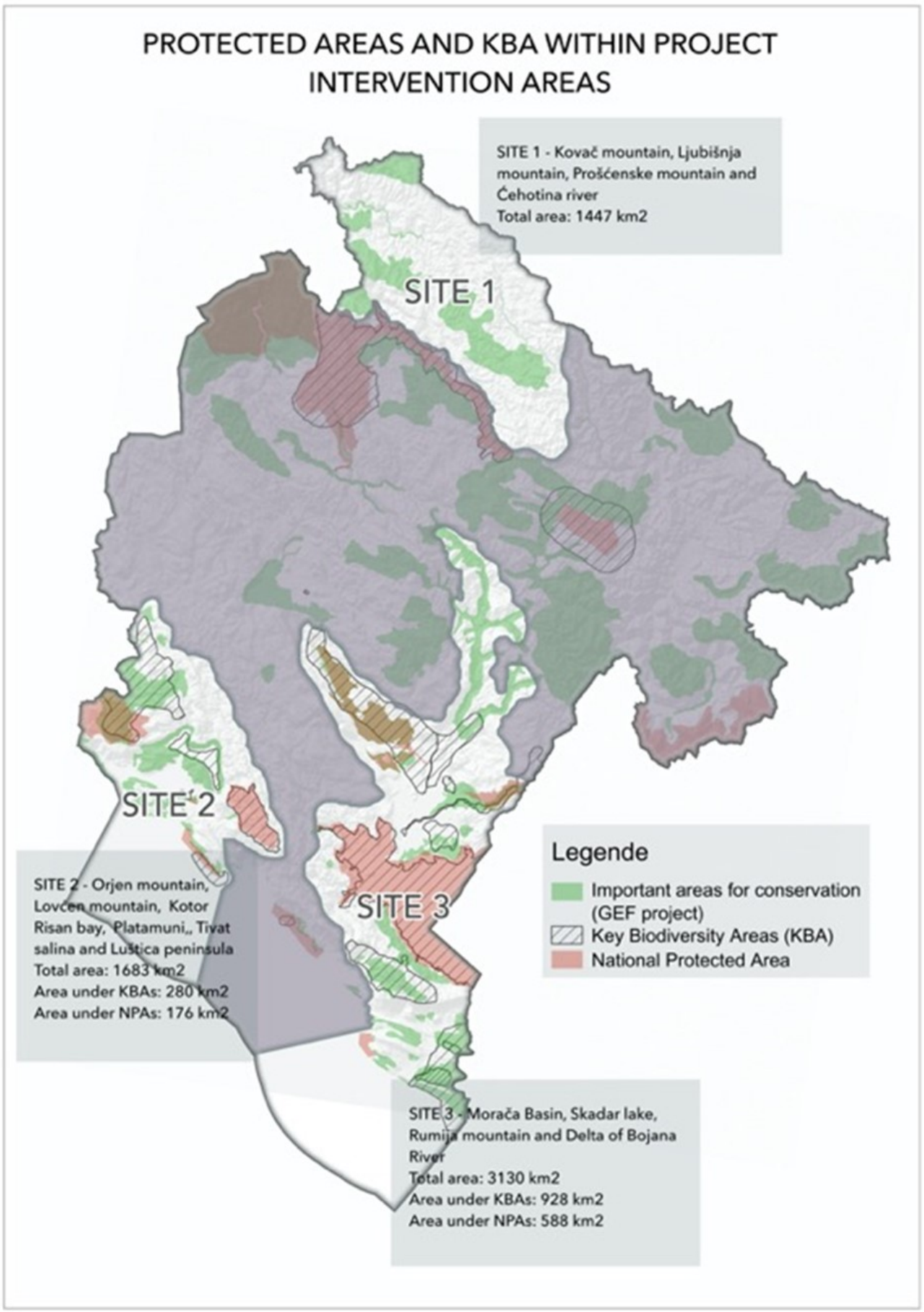
Southern Landscape/Seascape: (consisting of Skadar lake, Moraca basin, Rumija mountain and the Bojana River delta). The **Skadar Lake National Park is** featured on the Ramsar list of wetlands of international significance, and has also a status of Important birds' area (IBA). It is the largest freshwater lake in the Balkans. It supports a lush wetland vegetation of floating water plants, various reed, and sedge and willow species. The lake provides important habitats for many species of nesting, staging and wintering waterbirds, some of which are globally threatened (e.g. Dalmatian pelican *Pelecanus crispus* and pygmy cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*). **Nature Park River Zeta** is currently the only protected area in Montenegro covering the ecosystem of a lowland river, thus contributing to the representativeness of ecosystems within the overall system of protected areas in Montenegro. **Ulcinjska**

Solana Nature Parkis the the first Important Bird Area (IBA) in Montenegro as well as being a Ramsar site. Representing one of the largest salinas in the Mediterranean, the lagoon is also the most important resting, breeding and wintering area for migratory birds on the east Adriatic coast. **Delta Bojane and Šasko Lake.** One part of KBA of Delta Bojana is protected, but a much larger area does not belong to protected areas. The Delta Bojana is characterized by specific biodiversity, rare and endangered habitats, while the rest of the KBA contains significant areas of quality agricultural land. So far, over 240 bird species have been registered in the Delta Bojana, therefore the entire area has been recognized as the Important Birds Area. **MPA Stari Ulcinj** hosts a rich biodiversity, like marine species, including species considered as endangered according to the European Union and international conventions. **Morača River Canyon** is already recognized as IBA and KBA site. On the limited area, 11 types of NATURA 2000 habitats have been recorded. Petrified springs with travertine formations are particularly significant because this habitat is rare in Montenegro, covering a small surface but recognized as a priority for protection under the Habitats Directive. There are 71 conservation significant species present in the area. **Cijevna Canyon and Hum Orahovski** is home to numerous endemic, relict representatives of flora and fauna. The Canyon has 813 species of plants registered so far, accounting for a quarter of the total flora of the country. Of this number, about 300 plants are honey-rich plants and more than 60 are endemic species belonging to southeast Dinarides and the Balkan Peninsula. **Rumija** Mountain is located between the two most significant wetlands in Montenegro, IBA Skadar Lake and IBA Bojana River Delta. Beside rocky, open and steep pastures, there is an area of maquis, forests of chestnuts and beech on the Mountain Rumija within borders of IBA. Mount Rumija, has 5 types of NATURA 2000 habitats with the dominance of East Sub-Mediterranean dry grasslands.

Detailed information and key threats and pressures in the three project landscapes/seascape and additional cluster map (and coordinates) is presented in Annex C.

Coordinates for the three target sites (map overleaf) are as follows:

SITE	X COORDINATE	Y COORDINATE
Site 1	43°18'14'N	19°18'35'E
Site 2	42°27'16'N	18°40'02'E
Site 3	42°18'56'N	19°13'02'E


PROTECTED AREAS AND KBA WITHIN PROJECT INTERVENTION AREAS
SITE 1 - Kovač mountain, Ljubišnja mountain, Proščenske mountain and Ćehotina river
Total area: 1447 km2
SITE 1
SITE 2
SITE 3
SITE 2 - Orjen mountain, Lovćen mountain, Kotor Risan bay, Platamuni,, Tivat salina and Luštica peninsula
Total area: 1683 km2
Area under KBAs: 280 km2
Area under NPAs: 176 km2
Legende
Important areas for conservation (GEF project)
Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA)
National Protected Area
SITE 3 - Morača Basin, Skadar lake, Rumija mountain and Delta of Bojana River
Total area: 3130 km2
Area under KBAs: 928 km2
Area under NPAs: 588 km2

Threats

Montenegro is exposed to various types of natural hazards, including (flash) floods, landslides, droughts and forest fires that put people at risk and can cause considerable damage that may undermine the country's economic development. Due to the country's vulnerability to natural hazards as well as environmental issues, including land degradation, soil erosion and desertification caused by human activities, the country is highly sensitive to the adverse impacts of climate change. The key threats are discussed below, but only those that are relevant to the project will be addressed and specifically at the project sites. Major threats to biodiversity in the project sites are discussed below, but further details are provided in Annex C:

Uncontrolled urbanization and tourism development of natural habitats with associated infrastructure development

The accelerated economic development and promotion of tourism, particularly on the coast in the Southern and Western landscapes/seascapes (sites 2 and 3), followed by the construction of roads and hydro-technical infrastructure, is leading to the loss, degradation and fragmentation of natural sites, particularly coastal and wetlands. In these two sites, modifications in the practice of the use of land, connected with urban development and tourism development are leading to the loss of natural and semi-natural habitats. Furthermore, large-scale infrastructure projects outlined in regional development plans, including hydroelectric power plants and highway construction, loom as significant threats to the ecological integrity of the protected areas in the Southern landscape/seascape. These Western and Southern sites are under pressure of tourism development and intense urban development which, due to increased discharge of polluted and untreated wastewater into the sea, that endangers marine ecosystem particularly in tourist zones such as Boka Kotorska. The most endangered habitats on the Southern and Western coasts are: (i) dunes on Velika Plaza in Ulcinj (one of the last shelters of the unique and rare halophyte vegetation in the Mediterranean) and (ii) the remaining parts of the Skadar oak forest (*Quercus robur scutariensis*) in Stoj in the hinterland of Velika Plaza. Ornithofauna which gravitates towards these habitats is endangered by hunting. The greatest danger for water and wetland habitats is created by eutrophication, which is a consequence of pollution from human settlements. Except for the practice of direct use of biological resources from freshwater ecosystems, the plans for their drainage are a possible threatening factor for plant and animal communities, fish population in particular. Threats to water and wetland sites, and hunting of waterfowl, represent one of the main threats for biodiversity. In the Northern landscape, while urbanization is not a serious problem, cross-border impacts from Albania's hydropower plants affect downstream flow and fish stocks. However, amidst these challenges, there's potential for sustainable local development through eco-tourism and nature-based activities in the Northern landscape that needs to be taken into consideration in efforts to reduce impacts of tourism development. Stimulating local economies through eco-tourism initiatives can engage communities while mitigating detrimental practices. Thus, balancing conservation efforts with sustainable economic activities is vital for the long-term well-being of these ecologically rich areas in all 3 project sites.

Dry meadows in Montenegro are very rare in terms of size and that is why they are considered one of the most vulnerable sites in Montenegro. Their conversion into arable orchards and vineyards have led to their reduction and disappearance.

Changes in land use practices, particularly in relation to agriculture and forestry

Land use changes, as well as introduction of new practice in agricultural production in particular in the Southern and Western landscapes/seascapes, are leading not only to the loss of natural and semi-natural habitats and species associated with them, but also to the loss of agricultural biodiversity, i.e. local varieties and breeds. The development of new practices in agriculture and market pressures have led to erosion of agricultural biodiversity, primarily domestic varieties and breeds which are reducing and disappearing from households or their genetic basis has been modified due to crossbreeding with other varieties and breeds introduced from other regions. In the Northern landscape, construction of large facilities, risks altering the landscape and polluting the Ćehotina River

Forest Fires:

Forest fires pose a substantial threat to the environment, wildlife, and human lives, causing extensive damage and contributing to climate change. Immediate financial support is urgently needed to enhance, fire prevention, early warning systems, detection, and firefighting capabilities, as well as to improve training and emergency response plans, to safeguard Montenegro's forests from fire-related risks and minimize their devastating impact. In the face of escalating natural disasters exacerbated by climate change per Disaster risk assessment of Montenegro[1]1 forest fires take a priority. Montenegro has witnessed a staggering number of large forest fires, with 1,001 recorded between 2010 and 2020, and additional 420 from 2020 to mid-2023. These fires have devastated over 50,000 hectares of forests and damage to wood mass exceeding 900,000m^3. In the worst year, 2017, 21,216 hectares of forest area were engulfed by fires. These alarming statistics place Montenegro among the most affected countries in Europe, leading to forest degradation. In the Northern landscape, dry meadows which are rare in terms of size and considered most valuable, are burnt by locals leads to habitat destruction and fragmentation. Fires, in particular, pose significant dangers, not only directly destroying vegetation but also causing long-term impacts on habitats, groundwater, and fauna. Fires are also a significant threat in the Western and Southern landscapes/seascapes.

Unsustainable and illegal use of natural resources (including illegal hunting and fishing, overharvesting etc.)

Forest policy and consequent exploitation that considers that harvesting should not exceed 2/3 of annual increment, are causing . threat to the quality of the forest, whereby the highest quality trees carrying wood volume are harvested for economic reasons which degrades the quality of future stands that is particular relevant to all 3 project sites. The National Forest Policy underlines the importance of sustainable harvesting in the future and places an increasing emphasis on multiple use of forests, including protection of biodiversity in forest ecosystems, protection of water zones, development of tourism and recreational activities, but unplanned and unsustainable logging . Additionally, gravel exploitation in some areas (particularly in Lim and Moraca River Valleys) in the Southern landscape/seascape has a very distinct adverse impact on biodiversity. Illegal hunting and fishing, as well as unplanned harvesting of forest and other fruit, are additional threatening factors are common in all 3 sites. Exploitation of lead and zinc ores has already damaged Ljubišnja, while deforestation, fires, and overgrowth threaten habitats and species in the Ćehotina watershed in the Northern landscape. In the Western landscape/seascape. Unplanned logging add to the environmental challenges in all 3 sites. Data on numbers and the status of game (as a consequence of hunting) suggests the need to adopt regulations for establishing limits on hunting for all sites. Similar, there is lack of data on fishing that limits the understanding of the status of the fish stocks and it is anticipated that there is a certain level of illegal fishing in the two coastal seascapes zone and it is difficult to assess whether marine fishery is currently sustainable. The data on changes to the number and structure of fish populations in the Skadar Lake in the Southern landscape/seascape are also limited (detailed data and estimations of fish stocks have not been published since the '80s). Experts' estimations concerning fishing indicate that fish populations in the Lake have dropped due to increasing due to increasing pollution from the basin, illegal/uncontrolled fishing, interruption of migratory route of marine species on Bojana and the lack of protection measures for the fish stock in the Albanian part of the Lake.

Water, soil and air pollution from industrial and agricultural pollutants and municipal wastes

Freshwater and marine ecosystems are mostly polluted by wastewater and solid waste which not only harms organisms directly, but leads to accelerated eutrophication in these ecosystems. Industrial waste can also be discharged into waters and affect directly the functioning of ecosystems. Discharging of untreated wastewater from sewerage networks of municipalities on the Montenegrin coast into the sea represent an important source of threats to the quality of bathing water and marine biodiversity. Only one or few municipalities on the coast has wastewater treatment plants for the water collected from urban parts. It is particularly concerning that, currently, rivers Ibar, Cehotina, Zeta, Lim, Plavsko and Pivsko Lakes, as well as the Adriatic Sea, are direct recipients of untreated

wastewater. Currently, around half of municipal waste in Montenegro is disposed on unregulated disposal sites, and less than 15% of municipal waste is processed (National Waste Management Strategy). There are locations in Montenegro with stored hazardous waste which is a direct threat to biodiversity (for example, impact of unregulated disposal site for hazardous waste in KAP on the Skadar Lake ecosystem). The lack of a quality sewage network with treatment facilities exacerbates pollution issues, compounded by wastewater and ballast water discharge from the Port of Kotor in the Western landscape/seascape.

Introduction of alien invasive species is poorly investigated threat, so far, but its higher importance among threats to biodiversity could be expected soon.

Systematic studies of invasive species in Montenegro have not been implemented, but some individual studies suggest the presence and expansion of introduced species, although there are no assessments concerning their impact on local ecosystems and autochthonous species. Development of inventory of alien species was planned under the previous NBSAP but, until now, coordinated steps at national level have not been taken to that end. The cumulative effect of the above threats to biological diversity is the loss of rare or endangered habitats and their associated (often endemic) species, particularly on the coast and a reduction in the functionality and stability of natural ecosystems, particularly of forest and water ecosystems. In the Western landscape/seascape, Invasive alien species further disrupt delicate ecosystems, while plans for intensive agriculture development in Tivat Field threaten terrestrial biodiversity.

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Impact of climate change, especially the effects of hot and dry periods on forest habitats which need to be the focus of more attention

Climate change scenarios in Montenegro suggest increase of temperature and a drop of precipitation, which is likely to affect ecosystems and their biodiversity. The data on phenology of woody species indicate indirectly the presence of consequences of climate change on the productivity of some ecosystems in Montenegro. The available data show that flushing of some species (acacia, linden, oak, maple, poplar, pine and maritime pine) starts several days earlier than usual. According to this scenario, the populations of amphibians and reptiles in karts areas of Montenegro and on the coastal mountains are expected to be particularly affected. As for marine ecosystems, it is expected that envisaged climate change will lead to a quicker eutrophication of shallow and limited parts of sea waters, and the introduction of new thermophilic (invasive) species from southern bio-geographic zones. As a consequence it is anticipated that the functions of ecosystems will weaken along with the ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change and provide other services which required for the well-being of humans.

Barriers

There are a number of root causes of the threats to biological diversity stated above, the most significant being:

Barrier 1: Low political priority that has the protection of the environment:

Although environmental protection and conservation of biodiversity and natural resources are formally declared as priority in numerous official documents (The Constitution, Declaration of the Ecological State, Spatial Plan of Montenegro, National Strategy

for Sustainable Development, etc.). In practice they are positioned low in the political agenda since the economic sectors (tourism, energy, agriculture etc.) considered as profitable are priorities. Interests of 'development without barriers' are generally substantiated with strong financial and investment arguments that are stronger than environmental arguments including legal procedures and administrative measures that are considered as barriers to that kind of development. Thus, for example, policies which are not aimed to the environmental sustainability in these sectors could be clearly distinct. As an example, the policy in the tourism sector is not yet enough focused on more environmentally sustainable and expensive forms of tourism with smaller number of guests. In addition, the allocation of funds in state budgets for nature protection is very modest, as decision-makers consider nature protection as a luxury that could take away resources from productive sectors with little or no potential for delivering returns from investments.

Barrier 2: Low level of limitations and incentives relating to protection of biodiversity protection for nature

The current system of prohibition and punishment for violation in the laws/regulations concerning nature protection (ranging from pollution to the direct use of biological resources) is poorly efficient and does not provide full control and / or limiting harmful activities. When applied those penalties are often considered more like 'extra taxes' that complicate economic activities. In addition, there is a lack of incentives for investment regarding improvement of natural resources in economic sectors (agriculture, industry, tourism…) as well as for individuals that have to change their awareness and behavior. Low fines, weak punitive and poor enforcement measures for violations is another constraint that prevents effective actions to protect nature.

Barrier 3: Demographic, social and economic changes which influence biodiversity

Significant demographic changes affected the region in past two decades (the break of Yugoslavia, the migration of refugees and displaced persons etc.) consequently changed previous resident population (ethnic, social, economic and etc.) of Montenegro. On the other hand, internal migrations of the population (from village to city and from the north to Podgorica and to Coastal Area) have changed the demographic profile of rural settlements. here are significant changes in the age structure of the population, which further affects the labor capacities and economic potentials of Montenegro. These changes affected traditional forms of the utilization of natural resources as well as traditional life style, especially in the mountains areas. Unfavorable economic conditions caused increase of the volume of direct exploitation of biological resources. Volume of direct exploitation of biological resources is depending on their accessibility while unequal distribution of the benefits arisen from their exploitation is causing local population feel dissatisfied. Historically, there is no continuity in organizing participation of key stakeholders in decisions making process regarding use and management of natural resources. Also, existing mechanism for the management of protected natural assets do not meet rights and needs of local population linked to the use of natural resources. Even not properly organized, this interest group is changing their estimation of natural resources in public use which are considered as 'nonentity' property that should be exploited “as much as possible”. On the other hand, general public declaratively claim environmental protection / biodiversity conservation is obligation o 'someone other who is in charge for taking action' and unwillingly accept participation in the actions undertaken by organized forms of civil society.

Barrier 4: Lack of coordination and inter-institutional responsibilities

Fragmented distribution of responsibilities and low level of inter-institutional coordination is causing both, overlapping of the institutional responsibilities relevant for biodiversity / natural resources, and lack of efficiency in the execution of obligations regarding biodiversity protection / conservation and sustainable use. In addition to that, there is a gap between the reforms in the legislative framework for biodiversity / nature protection, on one side and socio-economic transition / reforms all required by EU. For example, foundation of the management plans for protected areas is still in traditional management models that exclude participatory process in their preparation, adoption and implementation.

Barrier 5: The weaknesses in the system of management and designation of protected areas of nature

The weaknesses in the existing management system and designation of protected areas are obstacles that affect the efficiency of direct in-situ protection of biodiversity. The low level of professional, operational / managerial capacities in existing protected areas and lack of managers / management authorities for all protected areas are important impact to key natural values of these areas. Negative trends in the designation of new protected areas, particularly those of larger size require more efficient models for their designation and management that could be provided in the process of revision of the status of existing protected areas.

Barrier 6: Lack of public and political awareness of biodiversity and lack of public participation in its protection

A low level of awareness on wide broad of issues regarding biodiversity / nature protection is reflected in various aspects, such as inadequate solid waste disposal, lack of knowledge about the protected areas, etc. Public awareness campaigns on these issues are rare, usually timely limited and focused on the specific issue (for example, campaign against the construction of hydropower plants on Tara River). Generally speaking, there is low public support to the initiatives for the nature protection (for example, lack of public support for establishing National park 'Prokletije'), which leads to discouragement of general public and lack of political interest and support, as well. Putting under protection new protected areas is considered as 'a barrier' for local economic development of rural

areas that additionally amplifying deviation of general public opinion.

Baseline

Under the baseline scenario, national and municipal entities and sector and development institutions will continue to inadequately address biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services in decision-making (continuing the sector-based planning approach), that will have implications for ensuring interconnectivity of sectors, systems and landscape/seascape inter-relationships. Sectoral and development planning is likely to continue in a siloed manner and policy coherence and multi-sectoral governance mechanisms will not adequately implement integrated nature-based solutions to address the drivers of environmental degradation. Policies and practices will continue to promote the capitalization of natural resources by powerful social and political entities at the expense of the poorest communities and conflicts between resource uses will likely intensify leaving little or no room for convergence of interests and compromise. Limited coordinated engagement between national, municipal and local stakeholders and institutions will prevent collectively scaling up and developing partnerships that will further advance conservation, resilient and sustainable management of critical systems that are important for the maintenance of the biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. Insufficient investments in environmentally-friendly decision making and solutions that support integrated conservation planning and management means that biodiversity and ecosystem services, and consequently biodiversity, species and habitats of migratory birds will continue to be degraded and lost.

To support the shift to a more transformative integrated and inclusive planning and management of biological landscapes and seascapes, the project will benefit and build on the recent international agreement to conservation. The project supports the achievement of the country’s targets/commitments towards area-based conservation and climate action. These include the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Global Biodiversity Framework's Targets 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, 19, 20, 21, and 22. The new NBSAP that is under preparation will be the main vehicle for national engagements towards GBF Target 3 (in particular through aligning the new NBSAP with the GBF targets). The intent is to facilitate and ensure stronger involvement of local communities and private sector through a national framework that recognizes OECMs as integral part of the country’s conservation network. The project will help address the threats to key biodiversity, species and habitats through a holistic and multi-disciplinary effort that will build on the current baseline and take into consideration lessons learned from previous projects. The baseline

investments, initiatives, projects and commitments are aligned with the emerging National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan that proposes integration with the KMGBF 30x30 target. The baseline activities that the project will build on are addresses in Table 1.

Table 1: Baseline Investments

Plans/Projects	Objectives	Activities complementary to GEF 8 Project
GEF 7 Project "Biodiversity Mainstreaming into Sectoral Policies and Practices in Montenegro" (3,278,995 USD) 2021-2026	Project Objective of GEF 7 Project "Biodiversity Mainstreaming into Sectoral Policies and Practices in Montenegro" is to ensure strengthened capacities for protection of the internationally recognized biodiversity hot-spots of Montenegro and mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives into the land use planning framework and sectoral practices around the KBAs since GEF 8 will focus on Integrated management of multiple use landscapes/seascapes to promote biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, improve land and marine productivity and economic benefits to local communities.	Two projects will have complementary interventions which will not overlap but complement each other primarily because GEF 7 will primarily deal with strengthening the system of national protected areas in Montenegro and practices of sustainable forestry and sustainable since GEF 8 will cover complimentary issues such as ecosystem restauration, invasive alien species , sustainable financial mechanisms and strengthening of monitoring system what will contribute to overall protection of biodiversity and activities regarding solving of recognized problems in and outside of protected areas.
Agricultural and Rural Development Program of Montenegro under IPARD II 2014-2020.' (Total: 50,924,371 EUR, EU Funding: 38,240,337.41 EUR National Co-Financing: 12,684,033 EUR)	The main objective of the 'Agricultural and Rural Development Program of Montenegro under IPARD II 2014-2020." is support to rural development programs in Montenegro	GEF 8 Project proposal will support establishment of mechanisms for improved development in rural areas with sustainable practices in line with biodiversity and ecosystem protection. The inputs developed during the GEF project implementation will relay on inputs, processes and lessons learned under IPARD II 2014-2020
The second project of institutional development and strengthening of the agricultural sector in Montenegro MIDAS 2 (8,300,000 EUR), 2018 to 2025	The project consists of 3 development components: Strengthening the MSPV program for agriculture, rural development, and fisheries. Support in meeting the criteria for closing Chapter 12 on Food Safety, Veterinary, and Phytosanitary Policy. Modernization of the fisheries sector.	Under the MIDAS project calls for non-repayable support have been issued for the planning of agroecological measures. Technical support has been engaged to assess the introduction of meadows and pastures within SIZEP and the selection of agro-ecological measures. An operational manual for implementing agroecological support is prepared and approved. Processes and guidance will be used as input for GEF project implementation.
Cluster Formation and Rural Areas Transformation Project (RCTP) – IFAD (16,200,000 EUR), 2017 to 2024.	The main objective of the Project is creation of value chain clusters for sustainable and resilient rural transformation, and investments in the development of rural infrastructure (roads and water) to foster cluster development.	The project has led to the development of value chain clusters in four production areas: seed potatoes, raspberries and other berries, meat (fattening of sheep, goats, and cattle), and milk and dairy products. Processes and guidance will be used as input for GEF project implementation.
FOOD4HEALTH (127,274 EUR)	Sustainable and Innovative Value Chain of Agricultural and Fisheries Products to Enhance the Market for SMEs	The project aims to develop a comprehensive Best Practices Report focusing on Quality and Consumer Health Schemes. This report will meticulously analyze the current landscape, identifying gaps within the legal framework governing Quality and Consumer Health Schemes. Additionally, the project will delve into defining food procurement schemes and formulating a protocol that addresses the competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) engaged in organic farming in Montenegro. The protocol will be tailored to incorporate

		Montenegrin specificities, offering practical recommendations for the region. As part of the project deliverables, a user-friendly manual will be crafted for the Food4Health Community Lab, providing detailed processes and guidance. These documents and insights will serve as crucial inputs for the effective implementation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project, ensuring its success and impact.
FRAME.ORG Alignment of the regulatory framework for organic production in Montenegro with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 (74,700 EUR)	The main objective of the FRAME.org Project is promotion and straightening of organic farming	The GEF Project proposal aims to establish Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) by implementing tangible strategies that promote organic farming. This initiative aligns with the principles of biodiversity and ecosystem protection, making it an exemplary approach in accordance with the OECM concept.
Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans	Established Regional Network for Integrated Fire Management; working on establishing the National Network for Integrated Open-Air Fire Management; developing the National Report on Open-Air Fire Management.	The GEF Project will include interventions focused on the restoration of forests, a complementary initiative aimed at both preventing forest fires and restoring the landscape.
Integrated Flood Risk Management in the Extended Watershed of the Drim River (2,000,000 EUR)	The main objective of the Project is restoration of River Bojana banks by building of embankment to prevent floods and to restore ecosystem in the area.	River Bojana is Project area of GEF 8 interventions which has aim to deal with restauration of ecosystems including rivers so this are complementary interventions.
Scientific Collaboration as Support for Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea - FAO AdriaMed (37,000 EUR)	The main aim of the Activity is supporting of gathering of the data on distribution of habitats and species on the terrestrial and marine territory of Montenegro in order to contribute to identification and determination of sites proposed to be part of Natura 2000 ecological network in Montenegro.	This is complementary to GEF project since new data on habitats and species and their distribution can be used in analysis of degradation of ecosystem, basis for planning of restauration activities as well as identification of potential new MPAs.
MedSea4Fish (673,000 EUR)	The main objective of the Project is straightening of sustainable fishery practices	The GEF Project proposal seeks to establish Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) through the implementation of tangible initiatives. These initiatives could incorporate sustainable fishery practices aligned with biodiversity and ecosystem protection principles. This approach is particularly apt, as the concept of OECMs aligns seamlessly with the goals of promoting sustainable fisheries. By integrating these measures, the proposal aims to contribute significantly to both conservation efforts and the responsible management of fisheries, fostering a harmonious balance between environmental preservation and economic activities.
Support in Implementation and Monitoring in Water Management (3,549,500 EUR)	The main objective of the Project is development of river basin management plans as well as support of the implementation of Marine Strategy Directive.	GEF Project proposal has aim to deal with restauration activities that are in line with river basin management plans as well as to support to implementation of OECMs by establishment of OECMs and improved management of MPAs.
Procurement of a Multipurpose Vessel and Research Equipment.' (3,500,000 EUR)	The main objective of the Project is support of the implementation of Marine Strategy Directive	GEF Project will support to implementation of OECMs by establishment of OECMs and improved management of MPAs, and consequently wll create platform for planned and cooperative use of the procured equipment.
Capacity Building Project in the Field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) through a National Information System on Forest Fires and Eco-DRR.	development of National Information System for Fires and Burned Areas and piloting Nature-based Solutions principles in the context of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).	GEF Project will support to implementation of OECMs by establishment of OECMs and improved management and restauration efforts, and consequently will benefit form data form National Information System for Fires and Burned Areas as well as lessons learned by piloting the Nature-

		based Solutions principles in the context of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

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B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

The description of the problems, threats and barriers related to meeting the goals of biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, improve land and marine productivity and economic benefits to local communities is outlined in Section A. Potential scenarios based on existing baselines and gaps in other initiatives are discussed in the text below, with the aim of defining the desired scope of the project.

Although, there has been some recent practice, although limited in promotion of integrated and coordinated approaches to the planning and management of landscapes and seascapes, in particular through the projects, it is not recognized as an implicit priority at national or municipality levels that might constrain the desire to establish integrated and inclusive efforts across sectors to promote conservation and sustainable development outcomes. Given the above baseline factors, the probability of further loss and degradation of biodiversity and ecological services forecast across the regions and the inability to enhance and support integrated cross-sectoral planning and management to expand the conservation efforts, the risks will remain **medium**. However challenges in addressing this need is further constrained due to gaps in comparable baseline data across the three target landscape/seascapes that will be further elaborated during the PPG stage (refer Annex C). In the effort to assess the project's robustness, the project team has developed simple narratives that explore potential future changes in key drivers beyond the project's scope. These narratives are not centered on varying degrees of integrated and inclusive management, which the project already addresses, instead, they focus on external factors. Key external drivers are outlined below, which are now supporting the proposed project in better assessing its resilience to external factors and uncertainties*:*

External Driver 1 – Policy and Governance: There is currently a lack of enabling conditions for operationalizing landscape/seascape integrated management approaches, as well as establishing ecological connectivity across protected areas, KBAs and other ecologically important areas as well as promoting the concept of OECMs to expand the conservation area network across the country. Although, the project intends to address policy and governance, there could be some hesitancy, and lack of commitment and willingness of the Government to act in an expedient manner to create the necessary comprehensive enabling conditions for operationalizing multi-sectoral and integrated planning approaches across multiple use landscape and seascapes, as well as supporting the promotion of the untested OECM approach in the country. This might also be further constrained by the limited capacity to establish integrated planning systems and to monitor and report on the effectiveness of management of the conservation outcomes. While, the project intends to address this through interventions under Component 1, this can still present a risk to the development of a coherent overall conservation framework for extension of the conservation effort across a broader landscape and seascape (beyond the protected area system) through adequate policies, finances, demonstration modules and monitoring systems to reduce or mitigate any impacts from adverse economic situations.

External Driver 2: Potential uncertainty of future financial situation and impacts on conservation outcomes: Although **Montenegro's** economy bounced back strongly in 2021 with a growth of 12.4 percent, the highest rate among the six Western Balkan countries, the outbreak of the war in Ukraine and the associated developments have significantly worsened the outlook for Montenegro in 2022, reducing the growth rate to 3.6 percent, down from an estimated 5.9 percent before the war. The main

impact of the war on Montenegro's economy is rising energy and food prices, high inflation, and slowing trade and investment, a slowdown in tourism which will further slowdown exports, private consumption, and employment recovery. Further, even though there has been a sustained period of economic growth, poverty in Montenegro has remained substantial. Coverage of the material support has been low, leading to some of the most vulnerable members of society being excluded from social protection. Reforming the current exclusionary criteria and reassessing the targeting method would help reduce some of the existing exclusion errors. The changing financial situation on account of global impacts can lead to increased support for economic development, at the expense of support for enhancing the conservation network. While, the project intends to support integration of conservation, economic and ecosystem services delivery through the integrated and inclusive landscape/seascape approach, including at the demonstration cluster levels to reduce or mitigate any impacts from adverse financial situations, this can be an investment risk.

External Driver 3 – Inability to accurately predict the future climate situation: Owing to its proximity to the Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas, climate monitoring and assessments show that the Montenegrin climate has changed as a result of global climate change as well as variability (Second National Communication). Recent studies indicate that Balkan countries are particularly sensitive to climate and precipitation change, with weather related events becoming more frequent and intense. Thus in an event
that climate change effects intensify beyond current projections, the project's ability to withstand and respond to heightened climate impacts becomes critical and poses a potential risk. As agriculture continues to be an important strategic sector within Montenegro's economic development and has many economic activities that are linked to it, particularly in rural parts of the country, the intensification of climate change can have profound impact on the rural economy. Adaptation strategies for more dire climate-related challenges will need to be explored, including specifically the focus on interventions to enhance conservation outcomes, promote sustainable resource use and improve governance through broadening it to the participation of community institutions and the private sector that can help improve local ownership and thereby likely enhance the resilience of communities and private interests to climate change risks.

At PPG stage, further assessment will be undertaken of potential future risks associated with the above three external drivers to help design management interventions to manage and mitigate these risks.

The baseline scenario in the absence of a GEF intervention would be the slow enunciation of policies and governance with weak capacity and finances for enhancing more inclusive and integrated development options that recognizes the profound link between economic well-being and protection of natural ecosystems. This means that there will likely be increased pressure on the remaining forest, marine and coastal ecosystems and the maintenance of their ecological potentials. Because interventions are broadly seeking to address the problems of policy development, governance and financial innovation, two key axes of uncertainty can be drawn from these drivers, one related to economic conditions and the second to government commitment to new policies and practices that promote enhancement of the environmentally-friendly economic development practices. These two axes will also likely be affected by climate change uncertainties. A set of future narratives are therefore framed around lower or higher lower or higher growth in the economy and a lower or higher commitment to policy and governance, leading to following short narratives:

Narrative 1. Slower policy and regulatory reform and slower financial innovation**:** With slower policy and regulatory change and less financial resources for integrated and inclusive planning approaches that benefit conservation, there will be increased pressure on the forest, marine and coastal ecosystems, which reduces the opportunity for significant transformation to more friendly nature-based approaches to resource management and use. The capacity to plan for climate change is diminished, resulting in further impacts on natural forests and other ecosystems.

Narrative 2. Faster policy reform and slower financial innovation: The relatively rapid evolution of policy and regulatory reform and governance for operationalizing landscape/seascape planning approaches and promotion of ecological inter-linkages across protection and production areas can lead to increased opportunities for transformation to nature-positive economic growth. However, the slower availability of innovative financial solutions can negate any efforts to enhance the effectiveness of conservation and sustainable nature-positive outcomes. The capacity to plan for climate change is diminished, so the impact of new policies will likely not be fully realized and unlikely to have enduring impact.

Narrative 3: Faster policy reform and faster financial innovation**:** The increased availability of innovative financial solutions for conservation and promotion of nature-positive approaches can boost opportunities for creation of an effective and viable economies to build on the enabling policy and regulatory framework and governance conditions created. Given, that the project is focussed on interventions to enhance conservation outcomes through promotion of sustainable and nature-based solutions to resource use and improve governance through broadening it to the participation of community institutions and the private sector, this will provide some level of incentives, along with and improved local and private sector ownership that would likely enhance the resilience of communities and private interests to climate change risks.

In all three above-discussed narratives, there are underlying trends towards pressure on the forests, marine and coastal ecosystems, that require new policies, regulations, enhanced governance and financial resources to develop and support a more resilient economic development model for the country. As a consequence, there is an opportunity for the delivery of global environmental benefits in the form of enhanced conservation outcomes in critical ecosystems on which economic well-being is dependent on, coupled with adaptation to climate change and better environmental security. However, the relatively straightforward approach to this that might be considered under narrative 1 will fail because of the higher pressures on existing natural ecosystems and climate change. As a result, the project planning needs to include active measures to build environmental security and resilience for dealing with all future scenarios. While, narrative 2 is a step in the forward direction, the lack of adequate financial measures will likely stifle efforts to reach a desired outcome. A strong emphasis on policy and governance reform with complementary financial innovations that support the achievement of a robust and ecological favorable economic pathway and resultant global environmental benefits would also be essential. Narrative 3 is more likely to deliver robust responses to the future uncertainty.

Theory of Change:

The project's Theory of Change (as presented in Figure 1) makes the assumption that underlying the project's feasibility is the potential to enhance the conservation outcomes as well as reverse, or at least, not accelerate the ongoing process of environmental degradation, whilst delivering benefits to communities. It is also premised on the commitment of the key stakeholders (public, private and communities) to actions in achieving this overall objective through the potential and sustainable uses of available terrestrial, coastal and marine resources. Proven management practices for ongoing and past projects, new and innovative technologies promoted through the project and financial solutions are factors that will help catalyze and scale-up change. To achieve this transformational change, the project's logical pathways are discussed below:

Five barriers were identified as key hindrances for maintaining and enhancing the conservation estate to improve ecological representativeness, connectivity and ecological integrity. These include the following:

- Barriers relating to enabling framework (policy, regulatory and capacity).
- Barriers relating to governance and management
- Barriers related to incentives and financing.
- Barriers related to innovation
- Barriers related to awareness

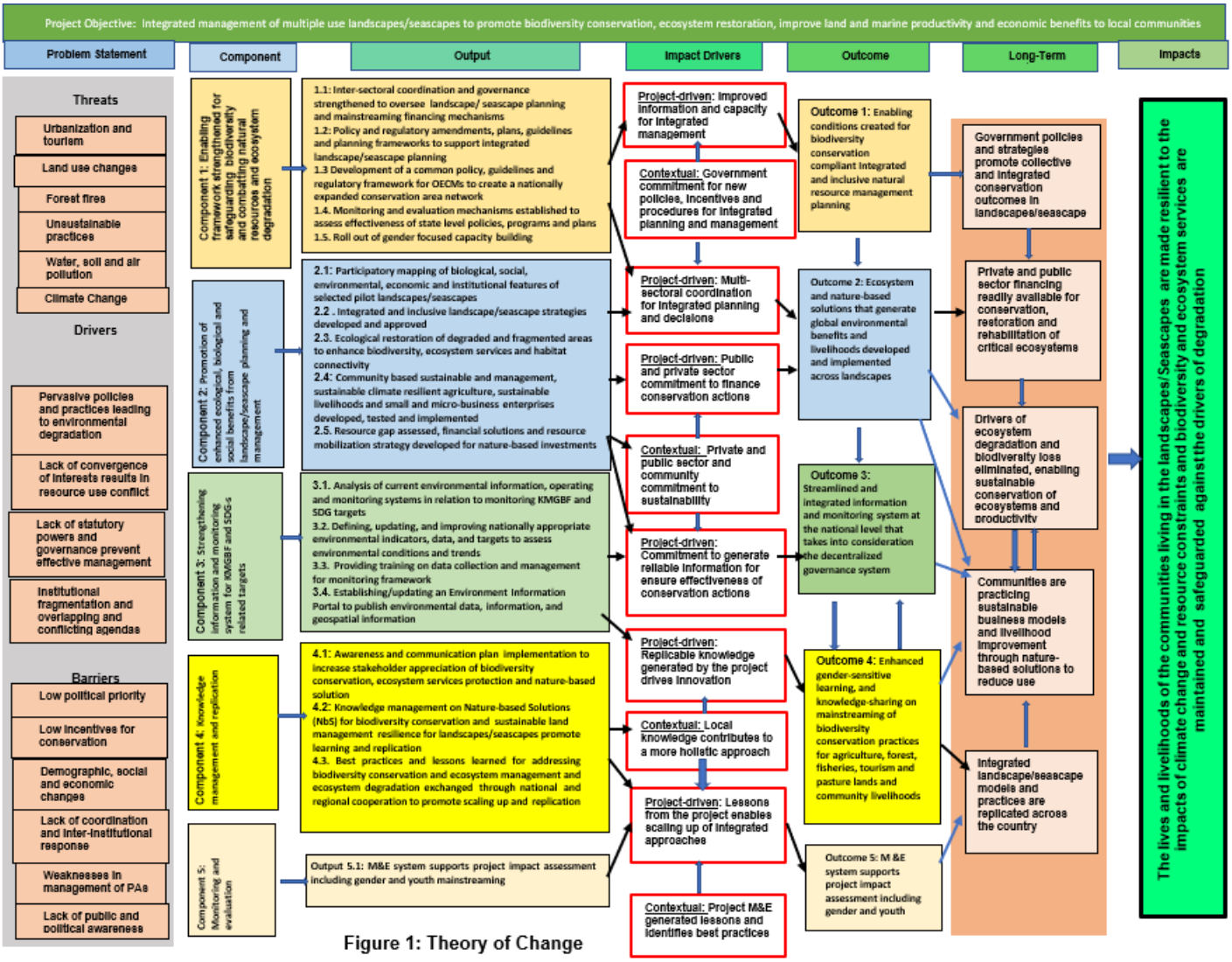


Figure 1: Theory of Change

The project's logical pathways are discussed below:

In response to these barriers, 18 key outputs were identified consistently applying six system transformation levers of the GEF-8: policy and capacity, coordination with parallel initiatives[1][2], multi-sectoral governance, financial leverage, innovation and learning. The transformation levers also helped to thematically cluster program outputs into **five** interlinked and inter-dependent components. This intervention pathway sets a route to arrive at a coherent overall conservation framework to support conservation outcomes and work towards achieving the KMGBF targets through promotion of national policy, sustainable finance and monitoring framework for PAs, KBA, high conservation value areas, OECMs and sustainable practices in production landscapes and seascapes compared to the current baseline. To achieve this coherent approach, the project would focus on the following actions to develop national policy, directives, and procedures to support integrated and inclusive multi-sectoral planning and decision-making across the broad landscapes and seascapes and to ensure a more embracive community and private sector engagement in conservation (Component 1). To support implementation of national policy, regulation and capacity, the project will facilitate its application and testing in the selected three landscapes and seascapes. In terms of national policy, guidelines and management practices on OECMs, this will ensure that there is recognition of different types of OECMs in the country context (e.g. spiritual, cultural, religious, ethical and conservation related and community, private sector, industry and religious institution managed). This will be complemented by Component 3 that focuses on the development of the information architecture to support reporting and assessments of effectiveness of conservation outcomes of the different conservation units in the country. Implementation of OECMs, promotion of effective management of PAs, KBAs and other conservation areas would be contingent on availability of financial resources (Output 2.5). The investments under Component 2 to trial integrated approaches to planning and management of landscapes and seascapes will provide the learning and experience (Component 4) to promote scaling up of these practices areas to other parts of the country as part of a national effort to meet the KMGBF outcomes. As a means of replication, this component will also support the development of a national strategy that further elaborates criteria for prioritizing landscapes/seascapes and step-by-step procedures/practices for clustered planning (for PAs, OECMs and other high conservation value areas), the latter to ensure that decisions related to conservation are made at a landscape or seascape (and eventually at the local level) rather than at a parcel-by-parcel level to ensure that it captures the biological, social uniqueness and representativeness of an entire ecological system. Component 5 provides a cross-cutting approach to support monitoring protocols to track progress towards meeting planned environmental and socio-economic benefits from the project to provide for adaptive management as needed.

Project Components

Based on the Theory of Change (Figure 1 above), the proposed alternative scenario involves the following Components, Outcomes and Outputs that are aimed at meeting the project objective of 'Promoting the integrated management of multiple use landscapes/seascapes to promote biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, improve land and marine productivity and economic benefits to local communities'

Component 1. Enabling framework strengthened for safeguarding biodiversity and combating natural resources and ecosystem degradation in Montenegro

The promotion of an inclusive and integrated approach to natural resources management calls for specific interventions to strengthen the enabling frameworks (institutional, policy, regulations and coordination) to enable the participation of all relevant public, NGOs, community and private stakeholders in order to ensure that strategies for conservation of biodiversity and sustainable land and forest management and promotion of climate resilience are developed in consonance with sustainable and environmentally friendly economic development. In particular, in this Component, it will be ensured that there is active women's participation in the development of policies, guidelines and regulations, so that women will have a direct voice and contribution. A common gender-sensitive framework will help integrate protected areas, biodiversity rich habitats and ecosystems (terrestrial, coastal and marine) and the intervening productive landscapes/seascapes that are used for agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry, forestry and other community uses. The strengthening of existing multi-level governance frameworks and capacities for

management of the landscapes/seascapes will enable the convergence of planning and human and financial resources among the different development sectors. Environmental assessments will be applied to facilitate the generation of site-specific participatory and gender sensitive integrated spatial land use strategies for the landscapes/seascapes that would focus on interventions that mainstream LDN, SLM, SFM, prevent and manage invasive alien species (IAS) and promote biodiversity conservation principles, generate critical environmental services and climate risk management and promote sustainable and productive use of land and marine resources and livelihoods in tandem. This Component has five Outputs:

Outcome 1: Enabling conditions created for biodiversity conservation compliant Integrated and inclusive natural resource management planning

Output 1.1. Inter-sectoral coordination and governance strengthened to oversee multi-sectoral landscape/seascape planning and mainstreaming financing mechanisms for delivery of international obligations for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation

Under this Output, the project will support the enhancement of existing multi-stakeholder platforms at the national, municipal and commune levels for ensuring coordination, convergence and synergy across the public and private sector development planning and budgetary processes to facilitate integrated and coordinated development and economic planning. The platforms will bring together a range of stakeholders across government, industry, NGOs, private sector and community into a common platform for dialogue on the biodiversity and natural resource assets and approaches for their long-term management and sustainable economic use that would build lessons and experiences for replication and scaling up beyond the project-supported landscapes. At PPG stage an assessment will be made of the best possible options to ensure coordination/convergence at the landscape/seascape level, using existing institutional coordination structures to the extent feasible to also ensure synergy with the other ongoing development projects and processes in the area. It will also identify at PPG stage, appropriate municipal, commune and community institutions to coordinate on-the-ground development investments.

Output 1.2 Policy and regulatory amendments, plans, guidelines and planning frameworks to support integrated gender-inclusive landscape/seascape planning, mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services in development planning and practice

Montenegro has adopted several effective laws and strategic plans (e.g., nature protection, forest, agriculture, marine fisheries, environment, spatial planning, sustainable development, etc.)[1] to support sustainable land use and natural resource management, there is no single legislative mechanism to implement integrated and inclusive plans that encompasses the terrestrial and marine systems, and thus its implementation will likely have to be undertaken through one or more of the existing sector legislation. However, there are overlaps and gaps in institutional legislation and mandates, in addition to existing ones that can act as impediments to effectively implement an integrated plan. Since the introduction of the new KMGBF targets has been adopted and new National Biodiversity Strategy is under development, there is a need to develop plans, guidelines and planning frameworks to support integrated landscape/seascape management approaches. A policy and legislative review will assess options for implementing the integrated landscape/seascapes plans, given the need to coordinate across many sectors and stakeholder and legislative and policy tools. The analysis and activities will help to identify, the best option(s) for implementation of the integrated landscape/seascape management approaches by adequate amendments of sectoral legislation, development of guidelines or by integration of the ecosystem restoration, innovative financial mechanisms and management of invasive alien species components into policies or plans as well as ensuring that the voice of women are taking into active consideration.

Output 1.3 Development of a common policy, guidelines and regulatory framework for OECMs to create a nationally expanded conservation area network to improve conservation outcomes and enhance habitat connectivity.

The objectives of Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) 30x30 Target 3 is to enhance the conservation network in individual countries that also seeks to ensure that biodiversity conservation, ecosystem protection and landscape integrity and improving socio-economic benefits are taken into active consideration. This will require a clear national strategy to identify and allocate new conservation areas through the establishment of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). This Output is intended to review and evaluate existing national policies (including standards, guidelines, mandates, etc.) in order to assess the best option (new and/or existing) to support the promotion of OECMs as a new and innovative approach to enhancing conservation outcomes in the country. The intent is to align OECMs in the national context to ensure that the OECM framework is recognized in national policy and has the national government's political commitment to its 30x30 KMGBF targets to enable buy-in and support at different national and sub-national levels (municipal, commune and local). Overall, this will help to also align OECMs with the country's existing protected area legislation, policy and implementation framework. In addition to national directives related to OECM, the intent is to provide clear guidelines and procedures for identification, mapping, allocation and management of OECMs and assessing their management effectiveness to identify potential categories of OECMs and promote a robust approach for the identification of OECMs within the terrestrial, coastal and marine environments. Establishing these national policies and related directives will need consultation and agreement with important stakeholder groups (municipal governments, sector entities, private sector and commune and community representatives).

Output 1.4 Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms established to assess effectiveness of state level policies, programs and plans in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services

This Output will focus on establishing standards, protocols and procedures for monitoring the status of policies, programs and plans in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, initially trialed in the proposed municipalities (and communes) that are within the project target landscapes/seascapes and subsequently promoted nationally. It will review current procedures for ensuring that development and sector policies, programs and plans are assessment for their compliance with sound environmental and ecological principles, including the application of national application of the Decision on Development of Strategic Environmental Assessments (2020), Decision on Development of Spatial Plan (2018) and Environmental law (1996 and amended in 2013). Based on this assessment, this output will provide recommendations for strengthening existing guidelines, procedures and capacities for strengthening the application of the above-mentioned regulations and others as relevant so as to ensure that future development policies, programs and plans take into full consideration the environmental and ecological aspects.

Output 1.5. Roll out of gender focused capacity building for government officers, extension staff, community groups, NGOs, etc., plus technology transfer and equipment for mainstreaming of biodiversity ensuring that training and extension programs are gender-focused and gender responsive

Output 1.5 will deliver a program to build the capacity of government, private sector, NGO and community level stakeholders at national, municipal, commune and local levels to enforce key mandates related to mainstreaming conservation of species, ecosystem and habitats, and promoting sustainable agriculture, tourism, forestry and fisheries, and livelihood development. The project will deliver training in priority areas in support of an integrated, inclusive approach to management of marine, terrestrial and coastal spaces and sustainable resource management (sustainable fisheries, tourism, climate smart agriculture, habitat restoration and conservation and livelihood improvement). This will entail a capacity needs assessment to facilitate the development of a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) responsive six-year capacity development plan for the project. From the needs assessment the existing constraints for promulgation and implementation of integrated landscape/seascape planning and related mainstreaming actions will be identified and targeted collaborative interventions of science and technology transfer will be identified at key leverage points. Tasks will likely involve capacity building in areas such as spatial planning, practice of mainstreaming biodiversity in other sectors, restoration of ecosystem, nature based solution implementation, management of invasive alien species, management of PA (and MPAs) and forest management planning, OECM management and monitoring of effectiveness, SLM and SFM, livelihood improvements, climate adaptation planning at the sectoral, national, municipality and commune levels, local-scale participatory SLM planning, climate change projection and impact assessment and economic assessment of resources. Moreover, selected through these activities, the development of a cadre of trainers through a Training-of-Trainer program will be assessed to include national entities and municipal and commune level trainers. The successful elements of the approach and upscaling methodologies will be disseminated, with targeted capacity building in challenged areas, as well as

across-government in relevant Ministries. Indicative activities under this output will include: (i) based on the assessment, the development and undertaking of a comprehensive capacity building partnerships in identified scientific approaches, innovation, technology transfer, sustainable practices and spatial planning, SLM, SFM and climate risk management processes, including in particular targeted training to build capacity of communes/municipalities, government and land owners in agriculture, forestry, animal-husbandry and rural infrastructure to implement SLM; (ii) institutionalization of the training within an appropriate institution (to be identified at PPG stage) to develop and sustain institutional human capital on spatial planning, SLM and SFM, as well as to support higher-level education programs and continuous professional development, among others that will be initiated by the project; and (iii) support on-the-job training to update and improve technical knowledge and professional qualifications of staff in key sectors and fields, in particular for key decision makers and technical staff.

Component 2: Promotion of enhanced ecological, biological and social benefits from landscape/ seascape planning and management

This Component will support an integral component of on-the-ground approach to demonstrate an integrated and inclusive multi-sector and multi-stakeholder approach to planning at the landscape/seascape level in the three proposed target areas, namely the Northern landscape (144,700 hectares), Western landscape/seascape (168,300 hectares) and Southern landscape/seascape (313,000 hectares) that will build on the national enabling framework developed under Component 1. Through this planning approach at the multiple use landscape and seascape, this component will support the improved management effectiveness of ecosystems, including protected areas, key biodiversity areas (KBAs) and assess the potential for introduction of the concept of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) as part of a broader national effort to manage and protect Montenegro's biodiversity and critical ecosystems and support the government 's international obligations. The potential for creation of terrestrial and marine OECMs is anticipated following the elaboration of the OECM policy (This will be assessed at PPG stage). The overall intent of this Component is to mainstream biodiversity conservation objectives within a broader social and economic development landscape and seascape complexes that aims to minimize impacts; identify and address the conflicts and drivers to achieve conservation goals; promote a diverse set of incentives, that when used in combination, can be applied to bring a conservation focus on the landscape level to enhance ecological connectivity and ensure ecosystem integrity, rather than look at PAs and KBAs in isolation of influencing socio-economic factors. Through the improved management of forests and grasslands within the landscapes/seascapes and restoration of degraded temperate continental forests it would enable a mitigation of approximately 3,988,848 tonnes CO_2 eq over 20 year period (refer Table 4 in the PIF for further details).

This Component will be achieved through five outputs:

Outcome 2: Ecosystem and nature-based solutions that generate global environmental benefits and livelihoods developed and implemented across landscapes and seascapes.

Output 2.1: Participatory mapping of biological, social, environmental, economic and institutional features of selected pilot landscapes/seascapes to development baselines biodiversity values, resource conditions, resource use and threats

The prioritization of locations for project interventions in the landscape/seascape will be further assessed and refined at PPG stage based on the following values: (i) biological and ecological values, in particular their values and critical corridors for maintenance of biodiversity, ecological and ecosystem services and their habitat requirements; (ii) opportunities for establishing connectivity between the individual PAs, KBAs and high conservation value, critical marine areas and riparian areas and creation of OECMs; (iii) intricate relationships between different habitat types/ecosystems that are critical for the maintenance of ecosystem services; (iv) the economic potential in terms of building supplementary incomes for local communities in the form of tourism, fisheries, forestry, grazing and agriculture; and (iv) existence of effective institutional

structures (or interest in forming such structures) that can serve as a vehicle for the planning and management of the landscapes/seascapes, etc. Participatory mapping will entail overlay of ecological habitats, existing protected areas, and catchment areas key with threats and pressures to ensure fuller inter-ecological and hydrological linkages and maintenance of marine and coastal ecosystem integrity. Since women and youth can play an important roles in using and managing biodiversity and natural resources in landscapes, forests and oceans, promoting programs that enable women and youth to participate in decision-making and equitably share landscape and seascape resources will increase benefits for everyone and help preserve biodiversity. In this regard, women and youth will participate in dialogue on current dependencies and interactions with the natural resources in the landscapes and seascapes, in particular to enable the mapping of locations and resources on which their needs of natural resource products (food, fish, fuelwood and other food items are met from. This will enable gender equality considerations will be taken into consideration in the mapping and identification of conservation activities so these exercises do not marginalize women and youth and their land and marine rights and resource needs. The global significance of these priority landscapes/seascapes are provided in Annex C.

Output 2.2. Integrated and inclusive gender-supportive landscape/seascape strategies developed and approved

Output 2.2 will elaborate integrated landscape/seascape management strategies for each of the three landscapes/seascapes with strengthened community governance, integrating existing and new knowledge to reduce threats, addressing invasive alien species risks and deal with resource degradation and unsustainable natural resource and land, forest and marine resource use. This will entail a multi-sectoral shared vision for zoning of the landscape/seascape, actions for mainstreaming biodiversity into local and sectoral plans/policies, and promotion of nature-based solutions to resource governance and use etc.). Open and active dialogue across multiple stakeholder groups will be adopted to build a common understanding of the priorities, co-benefits and resolve conflicting aspirations in each landscape/seascape, target setting for biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable resource use and corresponding threat management. Building on the landscapes/seascapes strategies, this output will demonstrate the implementation of ecological restoration (including restoration of IAS risk areas), integrated nature-based solutions in forests, KBAs and high-biodiversity areas and community productive lands through GEF and co-financing investments. It will also identify potential areas for creation of OECMs following consultation with the communities and private sector/industry to assess their interest and commitment. These demonstration sites will be further assessed and validated at PPG stage in consultation with stakeholders based on criteria such as level of degradation of natural resources and habitats, including IAS infestation (agricultural lands, fisheries areas, forests and catchments, etc.), lends itself to implementation of a range of integrated nature-based solutions in agriculture, fisheries and tourism (that are also linked or dependent on catchment and forest conditions, coastal and marine ecosystem health, availability of proven/tested models of nature-based solutions that are available for scaling up, community interest and willingness to participate, level of private sector interest in promotion/support nature-based solutions, political support, etc.). The design of these activities will involve the identification of diversified blue/green nature-based solutions to resource use and livelihood options that can deliver meaningful economic benefits and facilitate a shift away from unsustainable and/or illegal use of natural resources. The priority conservation and economic activities will be designed based on detailed and spatially explicit baseline assessments (e.g. using the rapid biological, social and economic assessment methodology) in Year 1 of the project. The participatory mapping will lead to drafting of detailed management plan for the three target landscape/seascapes that will be gender and youth-sensitive so that it recognizes their food and livelihood needs when designing strategies for each landscape and seascape. Details of these activities are discussed in the next set of outputs under Component 2. While, the project will demonstrate implementation of activities in critical locations within these landscape/seascapes to improve management, over the long-term, the mapping and strategic planning exercises and demonstration activities (to be financed under the project and complimentary government and private sector financing) will provide information and learning for long-term management of landscapes/seascapes for different economic uses and development activities, facilitate permitting processes that meet nature-friendly norms, and help develop appropriate governance and enforcement systems to ensure that development is sustainable and environmentally appropriate.

Output 2.3. Ecological restoration of degraded and fragmented areas (e.g. forest lands, catchments, coastal and marine ecosystems, IAS infested and fire destroyed areas, etc.) to enhance biodiversity, ecosystem services and habitat connectivity

In parallel to other activities in Component 2, Output 2.4 will help strengthen the management of target PAs (improve management effectiveness, including reduction of threats to forest degradation from fires, unsustainable resource use and illicit logging) in the project landscapes, responding to capacity needs identified by PA managers to address challenges of resource degradation, economic and social development and conflicts with local communities. GEF funds will provide training and operational and technical support to PA managers to (i) facilitate demonstration of ecological restoration (particularly areas that are degraded by fires and invasive alien species) of forests, coastal and marine habitats to protect neighboring communities from climate risks; (ii) support protection and restoration of mixed landscapes (including community productivity areas) within natural corridors and PA buffers through environmentally-friendly practices to enhance the viability and conservation of key species; (iii) promote ecological connectivity between PAs, coastal wetlands and marine habitats, including potential for creation of biological connectivity within existing PAs, and establishing OECMs, where practical; (iv) private-public partnerships to support innovative nature-based income generating opportunities for neighboring communities from the PAs and their buffer zones to provide incentives for conservation; and (v) enhance community and stakeholder engagement and management in natural areas adjacent to the PAs. This output will provide technical support and capacity development to PA managers to update/prepare PA management plans that build on the learning from activities (i) through (v) above. In terms of the existing PAs, the project will in addition support training to build capacity of PA staff to engage local communities in forest protection, fire protection and biodiversity monitoring through: (i) SMART patrols that incorporate local communities, particularly in buffer areas; (ii) improving PA management plans (which are currently outdated or where such plans do not exist) to include specifically the integration of land/sea interactions beyond PA boundaries, ensure functional connectivity, broaden stakeholder participation, promote monitoring and patrolling and management oriented surveys, strengthen adaptation to climate change, improve cooperation with neighboring users for livelihood benefit and resource sharing with neighboring communities, etc. (iii) prevention and management of IAS and restoration of infested areas; and (iv) training of staff to set up data and reporting systems, surveys and have the ability to analyze, manage and monitor information from SMART patrols, so that it can be better used by senior management for decision-making and effectively targeting the threats and conservation opportunities. Learning from Output 2.2 to 2.5 will support replication of successful conservation and nature-based through advocacy, sharing of best practices, exchange visits and capacity building that is covered under Outputs 4.1 through 4.3.

Output 2.4. Community based sustainable and management, sustainable climate resilient agriculture, sustainable livelihoods and small and micro-business enterprises developed, tested and implemented, with special emphasis on investments that benefit women and disadvantaged groups

This output will support the diversification of livelihoods at community level in order to reduce exploitation pressures on natural resources that can no longer be sustained. Community engagement in project approaches will be facilitated through technical assistance, co-management agreements for sustainable resource use, micro-credit opportunities linked to eco-compensation mechanisms, and outreach and awareness-raising activities, including partnerships on nature-based education with local schools at each demonstration site (see Component 4). In particular, this output will help identify appropriate private and public sector financing to support communities and local stakeholder-based nature-positive small enterprise and livelihood improvements (including specific investment opportunities for women, youth and vulnerable groups) and potentially using financial instruments (particularly those tested in Output 2.5). In addition, activities can also range from restoration of degraded agricultural lands, improved management and restoration of degraded pasture/grasslands, restoration of IAS degraded areas, improve management of arable croplands, etc. In the design of these activities, the active participation of women, youth and vulnerable groups will be solicited to ensure their empowerment and equitable engagement in design of investments, consultations is conducted in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner, engage institutions that represent these groups to serve as mediators, promote access to skills training and support gender and youth specific investments, including partnerships with the private-sector. The project will assess existing private sector interests and incentives for engagement in nature-positive actions, identify opportunities for private sector engagement in new and sustainable agricultural and resource use techniques and products, organic farming, NTFP and natural resource-based enterprises, community-based ecotourism, forest and marine-based livelihoods and sustainable fisheries-related activities, etc. It will also support the preparation of a database of nature-friendly enterprises that are promising for the key landscape/seascapes that will be regularly updated as new and innovative value chain opportunities become available. It will work with private enterprise to undertake assessment of value chain feasibility, existing supply and demand, availability of raw materials

and the feasibility of the intermediary processes, marketing and linkages with service providers, as well as their environmental and social impacts. It will support capacity building efforts and skills development for a selected number of small-scale community enterprises (around 30 number), working with the private sector enterprises to train and build capacity of local entrepreneurs to engage in these enterprises. The project will support a market assessment and help develop market strategies to link enterprises with buyers. The feasibility of these enterprises, the interest of the community, capacity needs and availability of service providers will be assessed during the PPG stage and a few value chains identified and tested under the project. The intent of this Output is to introduce sustainable low impact nature-positive livelihood activities based on assessments of their economic feasibility.

Output 2.5. Resource gap assessed, financial solutions and resource mobilisation strategy developed and tested for ensuring sustainability of nature-based investments

Under this output, the project will undertake resource gap assessment at the landscape/seascape levels. The gap assessment will define biodiversity goals and targets that are aligned to the NBSAP. This will be backed by assessment of relevant institutional structures, processes and ability for mobilizing new resources. Output 2.6 will identify appropriate and innovative financial instruments and their implementation mechanisms for the project landscapes/seascapes that could be applied at the local municipality (and/or commune levels), to ensure that there is a clear mandate on biodiversity and a demonstrable role in biodiversity finance at these levels. Financing will also be directed to support nature-based solutions to improve management of protected areas, buffer zones, connectivity corridors and OECMs. Sustainability of such initiatives will be based on the capacity of the respective municipalities' potential to mobilize resources, potential for private sector involvement, and availability of mechanisms to ensure accountability and transparency. This outcome will assist in supporting the implementation of key elements of the gender-sensitive landscape/seascape conservation plans to demonstrate scalable financial solutions for implementation of priority conservation action. Special efforts will be made to identify specific financial solutions and resource mobilization strategies to promote business and livelihood for women, youth and disadvantaged groups so as to ensure that they share in the benefits and participate in decision-making and have access to financial resources. Screening and prioritisation of finance solutions and most suited finance solutions will be chosen for implementation in consultation with the relevant institutions.

Component 3. Strengthening information and monitoring system for GBF and SDG-s related targets

KMGBF Target 3 requires a new set of indicators to be monitored at national and global level in order to assess effectiveness and level of implementation goals and targets but in the same time as well level of conservation of biodiversity components. Since new monitoring framework will be demanding appropriate identification of national institutions to provide data, their trainings, update of National list of Indicators, testing of methodologies and data analyses will be necessary. An important aspect of integrated landscape/seascape planning is also to be able to manage the interspaces and buffer zones between the biological components of the landscape/seascape, related to use of land, water and related resources. Addressing land and coastal degradation requires an in-depth overview of the nation's land and water resources where geology, landforms, soils, climate and vegetation are emphasized. Some of these elements remain, but many need update, thus new surveys may be needed to provide the baseline and monitoring mechanisms for land and marine productivity dynamics, land use, soil carbon content (SOC) and ecosystem conditions. In addition, the collation and application of remote sensing and other data on soils, climate change and biodiversity associated land and coastal degradation status will help assess land use changes and threats to inform priorities for achieving LDN, SLM, SFM, IAS prevention and management and biological conservation. This will also require development and testing (in the demonstration landscapes/seascapes under protocols for monitoring the health of specific ecosystems). The information system will also capture socio-economic issues in terms of impacts, benefits and participation of women, youth and disadvantaged groups in all aspects related to planning, implementation and monitoring. Specific attention will be focused on the impacts and benefits of nature-based solutions, livelihood and sustainable resource use. An appropriate information system structure once established will then help to populate over the remainder of the project and should be fully operational by the end of the project, inclusive of the establishment of appropriate mechanisms for long-term updating and maintenance of this system beyond the life of the GEF project. Additionally, this information system will be regularly reviewed, and types and levels of information entered modified to best support the needs of end users of the system i.e., the relevant stakeholders within the government, academia, research and public interests in

Montenegro. The information system should permit a detailed understanding of key established drivers and threats of biodiversity, natural habitats and land and forest degradation, improved priority setting for interventions, informed decision-making on sectoral policies and investments, and easy access to information for decision makers and other users.

Outcome 3: Streamlined and integrated information and monitoring system at the national level that takes into consideration the decentralized governance system in Montenegro for use in decision-making, planning and reporting.

Output 3.1. Analysis of current environmental information, operating and monitoring systems in relation to monitoring KMGBF and SDG targets to enable streamlined data collection and sharing to eliminate duplication and fill data gaps.

This Output will address necessary protocols for monitoring and gathering of the data for indicators of KMGBF and SDG targets. It will support the following indicative activities: (i) reviews at national, entity and landscape levels existing data about indicators of KMGBF monitoring framework as well as responsible institutions for their gathering; and (ii) identify gaps in data and define recommendation on the establishment of monitoring framework for each indicator relevant at national level. The Output might support but be not limited to the following: (a) Protocol: Protocol for monitoring of key priority parameters for assessing KMGBF indicators (b) Institutional support: Identification of key institutions that will implement monitoring protocols and establish monitoring system. (c) Guidebooks: Guidebook on monitoring methodologies regarding KMGBF indicators (d) establishment of inter-institutional cooperation and joint approach toward monitoring protocols and data verification.

Output 3.2 Defining, updating, and improving nationally appropriate environmental indicators, data, and targets to assess environmental conditions and trends for improved monitoring and decision-making

This Output will establish a national list of Indicators as a basis for the reporting on the state of the Environment in Montenegro as adopted in 2013. From that time, there has been new global policy adopted such as Agenda 2030 and KMGBF that demand specific monitoring frameworks in relation to biodiversity and natural resources. The aim of this Output will be to support updating and improving nationally appropriate environmental indicators regarding biodiversity and use of natural resources. It will support the following indicative activities (i) proposal of updating on National list of indicators based on analyses and recommendation of Output 3.1. and (ii) pilot data gathering for some number of indicators and their presentation in the report as a presentation of a toll for decision makers.

Output 3.3 Providing training on data collection and management for monitoring framework, including use of the UNEP Live platform.

Based on Outputs 3.1 and 3.2, Output 3.3 will deliver a program to build the capacity of relevant government institutional, NGOs and stakeholders at national and local levels to enforce and implement data gathering and monitoring frameworks necessary to support indicator based reporting in line with SDGs and KMGBF related targets. Tasks will likely involve capacity building in areas such as in understanding of monitoring methodologies and protocols, data gathering organization, method of data analysisn line with indicators methodologies and reporting needs.

Output 3.4 Establishing/updating an Environment Information Portal to publish environmental data, information, and geospatial information (e.g. GIS) in line with monitoring framework for GBF and SDG-s related targets

Environment Information Portal based on relevant indicators of SDGs and KMGBF will be established as a new component of information systems that is managed from Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro. Environment Information Portal will have two modules one that is for public and second for users that provide data. This system should be easy to use for the relevant stakeholders within the government, academia and research institutions that will be data providers, but also for the public. The information system should serve as supporting toll for SDGs relevant targets and CBD reporting and in the same time to ensure data that allow detailed understanding of key established drivers and threats of biodiversity, natural habitats and land and forest degradation, improved priority setting for interventions, informed decision-making on sectoral policies and investments, and easy access to information for decision makers and other users.

Component 4: Knowledge management and replication

This Component will seek to improve awareness and communication and ensure that the Project's innovative practices, lessons and knowledge generated are identified, documented and disseminated under Output 4.2 that will contribute to learning and facilitate replication and scaling up in other parts of the country. This Component will support: (i) promotion of awareness and communication of NbS; (ii) documentation and dissemination of best practices and enhanced communication; (ii) preparation of guidance notes to address current gaps in integrated planning, policy and legislation; (iii) technical reports, publications and other knowledge management products; (iv) national and sub-national workshops to facilitate dissemination and promote replication; and (v) preparation of replication and scaling up strategy. This Component will have three outputs.

Outcome 4: Enhanced gender-sensitive learning, and knowledge-sharing on mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation practices for agriculture, forest, fisheries, tourism and pasture lands and community livelihoods.

Output 4.1. Gender sensitive awareness and communication plan implementation to increase stakeholder appreciation of biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services protection and nature-based solutions

To move away from business-as-usual, it is necessary to ensure that across all stakeholder groups, including the wider society, women, youth and vulnerable communities investments that mainstream biodiversity and natural resources uses are valued and appreciated for their functional and supportive role in promoting nature-based solutions. Enhancing political support is particularly crucial, as without political will, there cannot be opportunities for improving conservation and sustainable natural resources management and commensurate sustainable economic development. Key to increasing political support will be advancing their recognition of the value and importance of integrated and inclusive multi-stakeholder and multi-sector at different levels of government and administrative units. The development and implementation of effective and targeted communication and awareness strategies will be essential for mobilizing action in government and non-government stakeholders and local communities. This will entail preparation and implementation of a gender-sensitive communication strategy and plan that would focus on sharing knowledge, especially focusing on the integrated and inclusive planning efforts and mainstreaming natural resources in economic development sectors. Given that women and disadvantaged groups are among the first to experience the devastating impact of natural resource degradation and climate change, biodiversity loss forces them to spend more effort address these impacts and in meeting their food and security needs. As a consequence the awareness and communication strategy will be specifically directed at women and disadvantaged groups to encourage them to equally and actively engage in the conservation process, and in particular to take responsibility for engaging in project planning and investment as they can play

critical roles as primary land managers and resource users. Through education, awareness and evidence-based community activities, the project intends to ensure that women, youth and disadvantageous groups to continue to advance women's rights and empower succeeding women, youth and disadvantaged groups to be full and equal participants in society and change agents for biodiversity. implementation of this strategy should be a co-operative process and as such places the effective participation and collaboration of local, national, municipal and commune stakeholders, encompassing inter-governmental agencies, local communities, civil society, private sector, research/academic community, PA and forest networks and relevant Regional and International Organizations at its core for successful implementation. This communication and awareness plan will be designed and implemented in local languages through awareness events, competitions, website, mass media, video and film, educational festivals, etc. It will also promote teaching materials for schools, schools projects, and awareness workshops for industry and businesses, etc. The intent is to promote awareness and interests in promotion the economic values and benefits that can be derived by community and businesses from improved conservation actions and dissemination of the procedures and practices for conservation.

Output 4.2 Knowledge management on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management resilience for landscapes/seascapes promote learning and replication.

This Output will ensure that successes (and failures) from the project that will be documented and disseminated and shared in regional, national and international fora. As part of an effort to promote scaling up (in Output 4.3), this output will support the following activities: (i) documentation and dissemination of case studies, best practices and experiences (including the role of women, youth and IPs) emanating from the project for decision-making on scaling up; (ii) development of policy guidance notes to address gaps and constraints of existing planning and policies that favor mainstreaming, landscape/seascape integrated planning, monitoring and reporting, etc.; (iii) technical reports, publications and other knowledge management products in English and local languages; (iv) conduct of municipal and national level workshops to facilitate dissemination of field lessons; and (vi) inter-municipal site visits to share lessons. In particular, efforts will be made to identify best practices (that promote gender equality so as to provide specific guidance and examples for mainstreaming gender perspectives across the lifecycle of the project – to achieve greater effectiveness, better outcomes and stronger co-benefits.

Output 4.3: Best practices and lessons learned for addressing biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management and ecosystem degradation exchanged through national and regional cooperation to promote scaling up and replication

As a means of replication regionally and nationally, the project will support the following actions: (a) institutionalization of best practices through promotion of planning instruments in order to secure replication; and (b) replication/up-scaling strategy based on lessons and experiences from the project. The gender sensitive replication strategy will provide guidance on key factors that define the successes (institutional, planning, financial solutions and decision-making), participatory planning and consultative practices, capacity assessment and skills development, tools for adaptive management, monitoring, reporting and auditing, etc. This will be further defined at PPG stage to enable uptake through training, technical support, identification of financial mechanisms, etc.; (c) regional and national workshops and site visits to build learning and capacity for replication; and (d) identification of addition priority landscapes/seascapes for potential replication. The anticipated outcome from this output is a national strategy that defines objective criteria for selection of landscapes/seascapes, objective criteria for investment planning and management interventions planned to ensure complementarity of interventions, enhance connectivity between individual conservation parcels, ensure integrity of the landscape/seascape and support collective decision-making and actions across the landscapes/seascapes.

Component 5: Monitoring and evaluation

Outcome 5: Impact monitoring to promote adaptive management.

Output 5.1: M&E system supports project impact assessment including gender and youth mainstreaming

The project will design and operate a monitoring and evaluation system to track environmental and socio-economic and gender benefits generated by the project. The M&E system will follow UNDP and GEF M&E policies related to monitoring and reporting.. The M&E system will follow UNDP and GEF M&E policies. The monitoring and evaluation will include gender disaggregated data to capture the impacts and benefits of the program on women. During the monitoring process, the PMU will actively consult with women to ensure that it captures the impacts of the project. Specific workshops will be held with women to review monitoring and evaluation results (including the MTR and TE) to ensure that these capture the perceptions and impacts on women. The monitoring system can be used to inform decision-making by government resource managers and private resource users. The project's M&E and adaptive management system will be based on the monitoring of the relationships between action and result and will be anchored in a subset of SMART indicators to be developed during the PPG phase. Furthermore, the project will employ adaptive management principles not only in its risk management but also in its management of results.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

A gender analysis and mainstreaming action plan will be developed at PPG stage, with identified actions, indicators and budget provided for enhancing women's participation in project decision-making bodies, project design and implementation and benefit sharing and monitoring. Specific training and technical support will be provided to enhance women's and youth's capacity to participate in project design, implementation and monitoring and specific investments will be identified for women. The gender action plan to be developed at PPG stage will specifically seek to (i) ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all activities of the project to promote gender equality and empowerment of women, (ii) existing gender-based inequalities are addressed; (iii) both men and women as equal agents of change; (iv) stakeholder engagement in conducted in an inclusive and gender responsive manner; (v) promote women's access to resilience building and income-generating models for sustainable income development[(vi) ensure women's access to equal training and technology opportunities to facilitate their participation in environmentally compatible income generation activities; (vii) capitalize on opportunities to address gender gaps and support the empowerment of women in order to help achieve global environmental benefits; (viii) collect gender-disaggregated data and information, use gender-sensitive indicators, gender-disaggregated targets and results, as relevant, and regularly incorporate these in monitoring, evaluation and reporting on activities; (ix) prepare and disseminate case studies on gender-sensitive forest management solutions to enhance policy guidelines and standards; (x) ensure integration of gender equality into strategies, plans and management frameworks; (xi) emplace a gender-responsive perspective within the project team through training; (xii) promote women's participation and leadership in all forms of decision-making; and (xiii) support gender-specific investments in livelihoods, value chains and other income generation activities. The gender assessment will look at ways to enable collaboration with the EmpowerHER Montenegro Program: 'Fostering Rural Development' to creating opportunities for networking, learning and participation, including specifically for rural women entrepreneurs.

Stakeholder engagement:

The project provides the opportunity for partnerships with a range of stakeholders, including key national, municipal and local entities with the mandate for biodiversity and sustainable development; communities living in the biologically rich landscapes/seascapes; and key sector agencies that benefit and/or impact on such systems. During the PPG phase and

implementation, a broad approach to stakeholder engagement will be continued, including preparation of a stakeholder engagement plan, to support strong partnerships across government and with the private sector and local communities are needed to achieve sustainable biodiversity-related natural resources and economic development. The role and responsibilities of key stakeholders in preparation and implementation including in decision-making, planning, implementation and management is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder	Mandate	Role in project
Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development	The Ministry is responsible for the development of regulatory and strategic framework in the following areas: environmental protection including biodiversity and nature protection, climate change, land, tourism, sustainable development, and	The Ministry will be represented in the Project Steering Committee, will coordinate project activities with other stakeholders, assist the project with cross-sectoral communication, provide technical expertise through its personnel and networks, facilitate access to sites and locations, address logistical issues, e.g. through organization of meetings and provision of relevant facilities, and support project management and regular project reporting.
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management	This Ministry performs tasks related to: development of policy proposals for agrarian and rural development; agriculture; protection, utilization and promotion of agricultural land; plant production; animal husbandry; organic production; freshwater fisheries and aquaculture; marine fisheries and mariculture; strengthening the competitiveness of food producers; sustainable management of agricultural resources; expanding economic activity in rural areas; forestry development; forest and forest land management and protection; conservation, economic use and enhancement of forests; monitoring of forest management planning; licensing of professional forestry jobs.	The Ministry will be represented in the Project Steering Committee, will provide technical expertise through its personnel and networks, facilitate access to sites and locations, address logistical issues. The Ministry will secure synergies and coordination between the Project and initiatives within the Ministry portfolio covering areas of: forestry policies, agricultural policies and water and fisheries management The Ministry will design/enforce policy measures in support of project endeavors and confirm parallel co-financing aimed at sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry management practices.
Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs	Administrative and governance responsibilities in following fields: maritime policy, ports of national importance and the safety and security of maritime traffic, setting up of indicators, prevention and undertaking emergency measures in case of sea pollution from vessels; Indicators of prevention and taking emergency measures in case of sea pollution from vessels.	The Ministry will provide technical expertise through its personnel and networks, facilitate access to sites and locations. The Ministry will secure synergies and coordination between the Project and initiatives within the Ministry portfolio covering areas specifically in relation to measures to maritime transport in relation to OECMs and MPAs and ballast water management in the context of invasive alien species.
Ministry of Finance	The Ministry is responsible for the development of regulatory and strategic framework in the field of financial rules and state budget. The Ministry is responsible for managing public finances, the budget, and public debt.	The Ministry will provide support and technical expertise through its personnel regarding policies, plans, regulations and standards in relation to innovative financial mechanisms as well as their adoption and processing.
Ministry of internal affairs	The Ministry of Internal Affairs is responsible duties of integrated border management and coordination of the Schengen Action Plan	The Ministry will provide support and technical expertise in area of disaster risk reduction, specifically in are of forest fires and floods, as most relevant for the purpose of the project and as part of the ministry mandate.
Ministry of Economic Development	The Ministry of Economic Development performs tasks related to: preparation and monitoring of regulations in regional development, free and business zones, regional development of Montenegro; preparation and implementation development plans; preparation and assessment of development investment projects t	Sustainable use of natural resources is important part of the future development and the Ministry will help securing proper understanding of cooperative and sustainable development.

Central Bank Of Montenegro	Central Bank of Montenegro is in charge of the fostering and maintaining of the stability of the financial system	Representatives from Central Bank of Montenegro will participate in the development of new financial mechanisms and guide project implementation in regard to the development of investment and resource mobilization for biodiversity protection.
Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro (IDFM)	Fund is a mechanism for supporting economic development. The Fund core businesses is established through granting loans and extending guarantees, support in resolving infrastructure and ecological projects; support export and employment including the areas of agriculture, environment, and tourism.	Representatives from IDFM will participate in the development of new financial mechanisms and guide project implementation in regard to the development of investment possibilities for biodiversity protection.
Eco Fund	Fund is a limited liability company and the responsibility of the Eco-Fund is to secure the funds for the implementation of projects that aim at preservation of all components of environment and rational use of natural resources, as the key preconditions for sustainable development.	Representatives from Eco Fund will be members of the Project Steering Committee to develop and guide community based sustainable and management, sustainable climate resilient agriculture, sustainable livelihoods and small and micro-business enterprises with special emphasis on investments that benefit women and disadvantaged groups.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Numerous competences related to the implementation of the legislation for nature protection, monitoring of the state of habitats and species, development of Studies for establishment of PAs, monitoring programs, maintenance of the database on the environment (including biodiversity); review and issuance of consents for strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and EIA and in charge of the establishment and management of Environmental Information System	The Agency will be represented in the Project Steering Committee, will coordinate project activities, assist the project with cross-sectoral communication, provide technical expertise through its personnel and networks, facilitate access to sites and locations, address logistical issues, e.g. through organization of meetings and provision of relevant facilities, and support project management and regular project reporting. It will support data collection in regard to CBD requirements and methodologies in relation to newly introduced indicators by GBF and CBD.
Forestry Administration	Forestry Administration (FA) is government body responsible for development of policy and legislation in the area of forestry as well as implementation of it.	FA will provide guidance and coordinate project activities, assist the project with cross-sectoral communication, provide technical expertise in relation to restauration activities and their planning. Provide support to facilitate access to forest owners.
Public enterprise for Coastal Zone Management of Montenegro	This enterprise manages the coastal zone, is responsible for protection of the coastal areas, and concludes agreements on its use. The entity is responsible for the coastal zone management planning, and the management of the coastal and marine protected areas.	Participation in planning and implementation of interventions where they are related to the coastal and marine protected areas.
Managers of Protected Areas	Performs management, protection, development and improvement of national PAs. Ensures implementation of management plans and annual management program; implement protection measures, etc.	Participation in planning and implementation of interventions where they are related to the national protected areas.
Institute for Marine Biology	Institute is the unit of the University responsible for the scientific and technical research in the field of marine biology and fisheries.	Participation in planning and implementation of interventions and research where they are related to MPAs and OECMs as well as marine invasive alien species.
Academia	University of Montenegro (Faculty of Science and Mathematics) and Natural History Museum are mainly engaged in research work regarding terrestrial biodiversity since Biotechnical Institute is engaged regarding the research in the area of agriculture and forestry.	Participation in planning and implementation of interventions and research where they are related to terrestrial biodiversity, invasive alien species, restauration activities and ecosystem valuation.
National Council for Sustainable Development with working groups and Office for Sustainable Development	Provides advisory role and sectoral coordination, considerations of policies relevant to achievement of sustainable development goals, fostering development partnerships, provides support to the just transition process, and defines other relevant functions of the NCSD. NCSD envisages establishment of 6 permanent Working Groups	The Secretary of The National Council for Sustainable Development will be in the Project Steering Committee. Office for Sustainable Development as a Secretariat of The National Council for Sustainable Development will contribute to coordination of the project activities with other stakeholders, assist in cross-sectoral communication, provide technical expertise and

		work of relevant working groups in regards to its areas of intervention
Local Governments and the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro (UoM)	Local governments have an important role in the management of Protected Areas.. The Union of Municipalities (UoM) of Montenegro is a national association of local communities, to which local self-government units voluntarily join. It is to promote the development and improvement of local self-government and to exercise their competences more effectively in the interests of the local population and pursue the common interests of the members.	Municipal governments will play a key role for the project activities dedicated to a) community engagement and b) collaboration with the private sector. The project will secure participation of the Union of Municipalities, and its department for environment and climate change. The project will partner with the UoM in order to secure appropriate information dissemination to all municipalities regarding project implementation and results.
CSOs such as the Centre for Protection and Research of birds, Montenegrin Ecology Society, Green Home,	The aim of the organizations is environmental preservation and protection, biodiversity conservation and implementation of the sustainable development principles including climate change issues.	CSO will take active roles in implementing project activities, notably in the involvement of the local communities to ensure enhanced collaboration for the long-term sustainability of Project results as well as some of the pilot activities.
Chamber of Commerce and Private businesses	Chamber of Commerce gather business community throughout the country, from large business interests to small business operators.	They will directly promote engagement with the private sector including promotion of new financial instruments and possibly their pilot implementation.
NGOs – (1) Resource Environmental Community – REC. (2) Funding Fish Other national NGOs will be identified and assessed at PPG stage	*(1) Environmental protection, sustainable development, climate change mitigation, regional development as well as European integration through development, promotion and application of the best and new methodologies and technologies for the country's sustainable development* *(2) En*gages with NGO's, fisheries managers, fishing industry, funders and other stakeholders to identify ways to improve the marine environment.	(1) Provide their extensive project management experience and expertise in the field of *environmental protection, sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and new methodologies and technologies for the country's sustainable development* (2) will support the promotion of sustainable marine fisheries development working with local fishers
International organizations and institutions	UN agencies, GIZ, IUCN and other international organizations in Montenegro are implementing projects in the area of biodiversity protection, agriculture, NbS and forestry will exchange information regarding ongoing projects and results in order not to overlap and work in building synergy with others.	Exchanging plans and results as well as ensuring that there are no overlaps between project result but building upon each other results.
Youth representatives: - Youth Network (CSO), - Center for youth education (CSO) - Network for youth activism (CSO) - Union of young entrepreneurs (CSO) -Scouts of Montenegro	Youth are a significant part of the population, usually in the informal sector	Youth will participate in the project implementation at landscape/seascape sites as well as throughout capacity building, awareness, and training programs to enhance opportunities to ensure a role in decision-making, benefit from investment opportunities and have a role in enforcing conservation decisions. The planned participation is twofold: involvement of CSO organization supporting youth engagement and supporting development of entrepreneurial skills for the youth Scout organization of Montenegro will facilitate engagement of younger population.
Women NGOs, Locally organized Councils for Gender Equality	Support mainstreaming gender issues, and securing positive impact of project activities. Locally organized Councils for Gender Equality, which function as entities within the municipal assemblies to implement the national gender mainstreaming action plans	Locally organized Councils for Gender Equality, which function as entities within the municipal assemblies will be a key local partner to help implement gender mainstreaming action plans. Project's advocacy initiatives will be integrated into the established governance frameworks of targeted areas. This integration will ensure that the Project's efforts are deeply rooted within

		existing structures, maximizing their impact, and fostering lasting change.
Local communities (fishers, tourism providers, natural resource dependents, etc.) such as: -Association of Fisherman -Association of agricultural producers -Farmer associations -Pastoral associations - 	Local communities are engaged in coastal and marine fisheries activities, agriculture and farming, tourism related activities etc. in the project locations	Local communities will be important actors in pilot activities of the project within their respective locations. They will be the key participants and beneficiaries of the pilot project activities. As beneficiaries of the pilot project activities, they will be also involved in data collection, monitoring, enforcement and compliance, educating members about conservation regulations and encouraging compliance. They can also assist with patrolling fishing grounds and reporting illegal activities. Agricultural associations will help incorporate practices that benefit biodiversity, like crop rotation, cover cropping, and integrated pest management, grazing and livestock management. They can share these successful techniques with others.

[1] National Forest Policy (2008), National Strategy for Sustainable development (2007), Fisheries Strategy (2015), Decision on Development of Spatial Plan (2018), Decision on Development of Strategic Environmental Assessments (2020), Legal and institutional framework for conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity and establishment of MPAs (.), Environmental Law (1996/2013), Forest law (2000), Law on agriculture and rural development (2014), Law on marine fisheries and mariculture (.), Law on Nature Protection (2008), Law on fresh water fisheries (2007) and marine fisheries (2003), etc.fisheries (2003), etc.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

No

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

The Implementing partner for the project will be the Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development and the project will be implemented over a period of six years with UNDP as the GEF Implementing Agency. The project is expected to be implemented through the National Implementation Modality (NIM) Policy guidance will be obtained through the National Steering Committee set up under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism. The Project Manager will head the Project Implementation Unit and be responsible for working in close collaboration with other sector agencies and the relevant municipal entities. Existing community organizations (to be assessed at PPG stage) will help mobilize the local communities and other stakeholders in planning and implementation of the project activities at the target landscape/seascapes. The GEF project will cooperate and build on the ongoing initiatives as described in the Table 3 below:

Table 3: Complementarity with Existing and past GEF, GCF and Other Projects and Programs

Ongoing Initiatives	Complementarity with GEF 8 project
GEF 7 Project "Biodiversity Mainstreaming into Sectoral Policies and Practices in Montenegro" (3,278,995 USD) 2021-2026	Its aim is to strengthen capacities for protection of the internationally recognized biodiversity hot-spots of and mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives into the land use planning framework and sectoral practices around the KBAs. Since GEF 8 project will focus on Integrated management of multiple use landscapes/seascapes, ecosystem restoration, improve land and marine productivity and economic benefits to local communities, both projects are complementary to each other. GEF 7 will primarily deal with strengthening the

	system of national protected areas in Montenegro and practices of sustainable forestry and sustainable that the GEF 8 project will build on.
IPA "Support to the Establishment of the Natura 2000 Network for Montenegro" (1,500.000 Euro) 2024-2027	The specific objective of this contract is increased institutional administrative capacity for implementing and enforcing the environmental EU acquis in the field of nature protection by supporting of gathering of the data on distribution of habitats and species on the terrestrial territory of Montenegro, determination of sites proposed to be part of Natura 2000 ecological network in Montenegro, communication activities regarding Natura 2000 sites and protection rules with landowners and general public, defining and initial long-term monitoring plan of habitats and species and capacity building regarding management of Natura 2000 sites. GEF Project will cover complimentary issues such as ecosystem restoration, sustainable financial mechanisms and strengthening of monitoring system by working within and outside PAs, including future sites of ecological network Natura 2000
Adaptation To Climate Change and Resilience In The Montenegrin Mountain Areas – GORA Project. Current project value- 34 million dollars	GORA will focus on reducing the vulnerability of livelihoods & ecosystems to the negative impacts of climate change. The project will achieve the stated goal and objective through three outcomes: o Outcome 1. Enhanced resilience of smallholders' livelihoods to climate change o Outcome 2. Improved resilience of ecosystems and infrastructures assets o Outcome 3. Strategies and mechanisms for mountain adaptation, based on lessons from project approaches and implementation, are integrated at municipal and national level The GEF project will use the same coordination mechanisms as the GORA project, resulting in synergies and coordination.
NBSAPs update	Within this context the UNEP and Government of Montenegro are implementing project with specific objective to fast-track readiness and early actions to implement the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by providing financial and technical support to countries work to review and align their national targets, NBSAPs, policy frameworks, monitoring frameworks and finance with the Global Biodiversity Framework. GEF Project will focus on issues such as ecosystem restoration, IAS, sustainable financial mechanisms and strengthening of monitoring system what will contribute to overall implementation of GBF and future NBSAPs goals and targets.
Natura 2000 supported by state budget (500,000 EUR) 2024	The main aim of the project is supporting of gathering of the data on distribution of habitats and species on the terrestrial and marine territory of Montenegro in order to contribute to identification and determination of sites proposed to be part of Natura 2000 ecological network in Montenegro. This is complementary to GEF project8 since new data on habitats and species and their distribution can be used in analysis of degradation of ecosystem, basis for planning of restauration activities as well as identification of potential new MPAs.
Cluster Formation and Rural Areas Transformation Project (RCTP) – IFAD (16,600,000 EUR)	The main objective of the Project is creation of value chain clusters for sustainable and resilient rural transformation. Since GEF project proposal has aim to establish OECMs with concrete measures rural areas with sustainable practices in line with biodiversity and ecosystem protection are suitable for introducing OECMs principles since sustainable rural development is in line with concept of OECMs.
Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the of the Mediterranean	The main objective of the Project is straightening of sustainable fishery practices. Since GEF Project proposal has aim to establish OECMs with concrete measures that will include fishery sustainable practices in line with biodiversity and ecosystem protection what is suitable for introducing OECMs principles since sustainable fishery is in line with concept of OECMs.
Agricultural and Rural Development Program of Montenegro under IPARD II 2021-2027	The main objective of the project is support to rural development programs in Montenegro. Since GEF Project proposal has aim to establish OECMs with concrete measures rural areas with sustainable practices in line with biodiversity and ecosystem protection are suitable for introducing OECMs principles since sustainable rural development is in line with concept of OECMs.
Support in Implementation and Monitoring in Water Management (3,549,500 Euro)	The main objective of the Project is development of river basin management plans as well as support of the implementation of Marine Strategy Directive. Gef 8 Project proposal has aim to deal with restauration activities that are in line with river basin management plans as well as to support to implementation of OECMs by establishment of OECMs and MPAs.
Procurement of a Multipurpose Vessel and Research Equipment (3,500,000 Euro)	The main objective of the Project is support of the implementation of Marine Strategy Directive trough . Gef 8 Project proposal has aim to deal with restauration activities that are in line with river basin management plans as well as to support to implementation of OECMs by establishment of OECMs and MPAs.
IPA Flood and Fires (5,000,000 Euro)	The main aim of the Project is regional cooperation and the exchange of good practices to enhance the legal and institutional framework related to the EU Floods Directive (EUFD). This

	includes institutional coordination among all stakeholders involved in the implementation of EUFD, as well as improvements in prevention, preparedness, and capacity to respond to forest fires at the central, regional, and EU levels.

Table 4: Core Indicators

Ongoing Initiatives	Complementarity with GEF 8 project
GEF 7 Project "Biodiversity Mainstreaming into Sectoral Policies and Practices in Montenegro" (3,278,995 USD) 2021-2026	Its aim is to strengthen capacities for protection of the internationally recognized biodiversity hot-spots of and mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives into the land use planning framework and sectoral practices around the KBAs. Since GEF 8 project will focus on Integrated management of multiple use landscapes/seascapes, ecosystem restoration, improve land and marine productivity and economic benefits to local communities, both projects are complementary to each other. GEF 7 will primarily deal with strengthening the system of national protected areas in Montenegro and practices of sustainable forestry and sustainable that the GEF 8 project will build on.
IPA "Support to the Establishment of the Natura 2000 Network for Montenegro" (1,500.000 Euro) 2024-2027	The specific objective of this contract is increased institutional administrative capacity for implementing and enforcing the environmental EU acquis in the field of nature protection by supporting of gathering of the data on distribution of habitats and species on the terrestrial territory of Montenegro, determination of sites proposed to be part of Natura 2000 ecological network in Montenegro, communication activities regarding Natura 2000 sites and protection rules with landowners and general public, defining and initial long-term monitoring plan of habitats and species and capacity building regarding management of Natura 2000 sites. GEF Project will cover complimentary issues such as ecosystem restoration, sustainable financial mechanisms and strengthening of monitoring system by working within and outside PAs, including future sites of ecological network Natura 2000
Adaptation To Climate Change and Resilience In The Montenegrin Mountain Areas – GORA Project. Current project value- 34 million dollars	GORA will focus on reducing the vulnerability of livelihoods & ecosystems to the negative impacts of climate change. The project will achieve the stated goal and objective through three outcomes: o Outcome 1. Enhanced resilience of smallholders' livelihoods to climate change o Outcome 2. Improved resilience of ecosystems and infrastructures assets o Outcome 3. Strategies and mechanisms for mountain adaptation, based on lessons from project approaches and implementation, are integrated at municipal and national level The GEF project will use the same coordination mechanisms as the GORA project, resulting in synergies and coordination.
NBSAPs update	Within this context the UNEP and Government of Montenegro are implementing project with specific objective to fast-track readiness and early actions to implement the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by providing financial and technical support to countries work to review and align their national targets, NBSAPs, policy frameworks, monitoring frameworks and finance with the Global Biodiversity Framework. GEF Project will focus on issues such as ecosystem restoration, IAS, sustainable financial mechanisms and strengthening of monitoring system what will contribute to overall implementation of GBF and future NBSAPs goals and targets.
Natura 2000 supported by state budget (500,000 EUR) 2024	The main aim of the project is supporting of gathering of the data on distribution of habitats and species on the terrestrial and marine territory of Montenegro in order to contribute to identification and determination of sites proposed to be part of Natura 2000 ecological network in Montenegro. This is complementary to GEF project8 since new data on habitats and species and their distribution can be used in analysis of degradation of ecosystem, basis for planning of restauration activities as well as identification of potential new MPAs.
Cluster Formation and Rural Areas Transformation Project (RCTP) – IFAD (16,600,000 EUR)	The main objective of the Project is creation of value chain clusters for sustainable and resilient rural transformation. Since GEF project proposal has aim to establish OECMs with concrete measures rural areas with sustainable practices in line with biodiversity and ecosystem protection are suitable for introducing OECMs principles since sustainable rural development is in line with concept of OECMs.
Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the of the	The main objective of the Project is straightening of sustainable fishery practices. Since GEF Project proposal has aim to establish OECMs with concrete measures that will include fishery sustainable practices in line with biodiversity and ecosystem protection what is suitable for introducing OECMs principles since sustainable fishery is in line with concept of OECMs.

Mediterranean	
Agricultural and Rural Development Program of Montenegro under IPARD II 2021-2027	The main objective of the project is support to rural development programs in Montenegro. Since GEF Project proposal has aim to establish OECMs with concrete measures rural areas with sustainable practices in line with biodiversity and ecosystem protection are suitable for introducing OECMs principles since sustainable rural development is in line with concept of OECMs.
Support in Implementation and Monitoring in Water Management (3,549,500 Euro)	The main objective of the Project is development of river basin management plans as well as support of the implementation of Marine Strategy Directive. Gef 8 Project proposal has aim to deal with restauration activities that are in line with river basin management plans as well as to support to implementation of OECMs by establishment of OECMs and MPAs.
Procurement of a Multipurpose Vessel and Research Equipment (3,500,000 Euro)	The main objective of the Project is support of the implementation of Marine Strategy Directive trough . Gef 8 Project proposal has aim to deal with restauration activities that are in line with river basin management plans as well as to support to implementation of OECMs by establishment of OECMs and MPAs.
IPA Flood and Fires (5,000,000 Euro)	The main aim of the Project is regional cooperation and the exchange of good practices to enhance the legal and institutional framework related to the EU Floods Directive (EUFD). This includes institutional coordination among all stakeholders involved in the implementation of EUFD, as well as improvements in prevention, preparedness, and capacity to respond to forest fires at the central, regional, and EU levels.

Project Core Indicators		Expected at PIF
1	**Terrestrial protected areas** created or under improved management (hectare)	70,651.40
2	**Marine protected areas** created or under improved management (hectare)	2,016.19
3	Area of **land and ecosystems under restoration** (hectare)	6,000
4	Area of **landscapes under improved practices** (hectare)	138,000
5	Area of **marine habitat under improved practices** (hectare)	2,400
6	**Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated** (metric tons of CO_2e)	3,988,848 metric tonnes CO_2 eq over 20 years
7	**Shared water ecosystems** under new or improved cooperative management (count)	6
8	Globally over-exploited **marine fisheries** moved to more sustainable levels (metric ton)	n/a
9	**Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced** (metric ton of toxic chemicals reduced)	n/a
10	Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (gram of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	n/a
11	People benefiting from GEF-financed investments **disaggregated by sex** (count)	40,000 (50% women)

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
70651.4	0	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
70651.4	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Monument Nature "Canyon of Cijevna River"	555634461	Natural Monument or Feature	2,022.20						
National Park "Lovćen "	2519	National Park	6,220.00						
National Park "Skadar Lake"	134952	National Park	40,000.00						
Park of Nature "Orijen"	555692093	Habitat/Species Management Area	8,797.20						
Park of Nature "River Zeta"	555691975	Protected Landscape/Seascape	11,985.00						
Park of Nature "Ulcinjska Solana"	555691976	Protected Landscape/Seascape	1,477.00						
Special reserve "Tivatska Solila"	555558411	Wilderness Area	150.00						

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
2016.29	0	0	0

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
2016.29	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Nature Park “Platamuni”	555737602	Habitat/Species Management Area	1,087.13						
Nature Park “Stari Ulcinj	555737604	Habitat/Species Management Area	929.16						

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
6000	0	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Rangeland and pasture	2,000.00			

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
2,000.00			

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Woodlands	2,000.00			

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
138000	0	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
138,000.00			

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
To be created		50,000.00			

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
2,400.00			

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	3988848	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	3,988,848			
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2026			
Duration of accounting	20			

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	20,000			
Male	20,000			
Total	**40,000**	**0**	0	**0**

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Table 4: Core Indicators

Project Core Indicators		Expected at PIF
1	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (hectare)	70,651.40
2	Marine protected areas created or under improved management (hectare)	2,016.19
3	Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (hectare)	6,000
4	Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectare)	138,000
5	Area of marine habitat under improved practices (hectare)	2,400
6	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO2e)	3,988,848 metric tonnes CO2 eq over 20 years
7	Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management (count)	6
8	Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (metric ton)	n/a
9	Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (metric ton of toxic chemicals reduced)	n/a
10	Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (gram of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	n/a
11	People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (count)	40,000 (50% women)

Notes: C.I. 1: includes the following terrestrial PAs

Name of Terrestrial PAs	Area (ha)	IUCN Category	WDPA
National Park “Lovćen“	6220.00 ha	II	2519
Park of Nature “Orijen”	8797.2 ha	IV	555692093
Special reserve “Tivatska Solila”	150.00 ha	Ib	555558411
National Park “Skadar Lake”	40000.00 ha	II	134952
Monument of Nature “Canyon of Cijevna River”	2022.2 ha	III	555634461
Park of Nature “River Zeta”	11985 ha	V	555691975
Park of Nature “Ulcinjska Solana”	1477.00 ha	V	555691976

C.I. 2 includes the following marine PAs

Name of Marine PAs	Area (ha)	IUCN Category	WDPA

Nature Park “Platamuni” (marine protected area)	1087.13 ha	IV	555737602
Nature Park “Stari Ulcinj” (marine protected area)	929.16 ha	IV	555737604

C.I.3 restoration of forests, degraded agricultural lands, fire destroyed areas and degraded wetlands covering a total of around 6,000 hectares (3,000 hectares of degraded pasture lands, 1,000 hectares of degraded temperate continental forests and 2,000 hectares of degraded agricultural land under SLM practices)

C.I.4: Terrestrial landscapes (outside PAs) under improved management in associated agricultural and grazing lands, wetland catchment management, wetland catchment forest conservation and natural restoration processes assessed at around 138,000 hectares, to be further validated at PPG stage, including potential creation of terrestrial OECMs

C.I.5: Marine areas (outside PAs) of 2,400 ha under improved management through reducing of fishing and other pressures, land and water based pollution management, waste management, etc., including potential creation of marine OECMs that will be assessed at PPG stage

C.I.6: Greenhouse gas mitigation based on the following assumptions:

(A) 25% of KBAs in the 3 target sites (6 clusters) that is subject to degradation (particularly in margins/edges next to populated areas) will be changed from (i) very low to none degradation status in 2,500 ha of temperate mountain systems and from low to very low degradation status in 25,593 hectares of temperate continental forests and (B) 3,000 hectares (of the 6,000 hectares under C.I. 3) of grasslands currently under extensive grazing will be improved with medium inputs (refer Annex H for calculations) and 1,000 hectares of degraded temperate continental forests restored through assisted natural regeneration measures, This will be further assessed and validated at PPG stage when there is adequate information on the location of interventions

C.I. 11 – 40,000 people (50% women) includes community living, in and around these PAs, KBAs, OECMs that would be benefiting from improved natural resources, fisheries and marine resource management practices, community-based livelihood improvement and small-scale enterprises and ecotourism practices and improved capacities.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Improved conservation actions, community livelihoods and nature-based solutions involves risk of: Sensitivity or vulnerability to impacts of climate change or disasters and increase in vulnerability to climate change or risks now or in the future. This will be managed by ensuring that all agriculture and livelihood activities will take into account the possibility of drought, flooding and climate conditions and designed accordingly and communication lines established by the PMU with the communities during the stakeholder engagement process will be used by community members to report any problems related to project activities (for example damaged infrastructure) in order to facilitate addressing the issue expeditiously. See Annex D
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Seven risks were identified in the SES risks in relation to the planned project results and activities. The project overall SES risks in relation to

		the planned project results and activities is considered moderate risk. This is consistent with the UNDP-GEF approach that all UNDP-GEF projects that include on the ground activities related to protected areas must be classified as at least 'moderate' risk. See Annex D
Political and Governance	Moderate	Despite the overall high political and institutional commitment of the Government agencies to the project and its individual components, the project coordination and the synergy between the individual components may be negatively affected by the highly sectoral nature and the procedural peculiarities of the governmental authorities and agencies in the country. Being in full ownership and implementation by the Government, the project may be affected by the internal governmental trends and flows and lose its integral nature and planned cross-sectoral and multi-level impact policies.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	Montenegro boasts a well-established planning and regulatory framework that aligns with the latest international standards, particularly those set by the European Union. Despite this, the existing capacities may prove inadequate for the timely and effective implementation of these standards. There exists a potential risk that the strategic, regulatory, and planning reforms introduced by this project to enhance biodiversity may remain confined to high-quality written documents upon project completion, lacking full implementation. The government's policy aimed at promoting economic development introduces potential implications for the project, particularly concerning its impact on the sensitive coastal and marine ecosystems. To address this concern, the project's design will explicitly illustrate that economic development goals can be more successfully achieved through sustainable practices. The strategy involves exposure to best practices, technical assistance, and comprehensive planning support, establishing a robust foundation for effectively managing the potential threat posed by conflicting government policies.
Technological	Moderate	Considering the potential impact of restricted technical capabilities on the successful realization of intended outcomes, the project design will incorporate a comprehensive capacity needs assessment. Where possible, activities will be strategically developed, taking into account both the current institutional capacity and additional requirements for capacity building, training, and technical support. This approach aims to address any existing constraints and promote effective integrated management approaches for coastal and marine area
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	The prevailing economic instability within the country poses significant challenges in terms of government resources and staff availability, including co-financing. Throughout the project preparation phase, an in-depth evaluation will be conducted to identify the additional technical and national consultant support necessary, considering institutional and

		capacity constraints. In addressing co-financing aspects, practical options have been identified and will be rigorously validated. This validation process aims to secure substantial co-financing by leveraging existing externally mobilized investments, thereby alleviating the burden on government financing.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	The diverse management structures for Protected Areas (PAs) and KBAs, determined by their category, international status, and mandate, may pose challenges for executing specific project activities. The constrained capacity of government administrative bodies to seamlessly integrate economic and ecological considerations into development planning has the potential to impede project implementation. This issue will be thoroughly examined, and plans will be devised in collaboration with the Implementation Partner (IP). This process will follow the assessment under the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) to pinpoint the requirements for potential UNDP oversight, as well as identify the necessary training and technical support essential for the project implementation phase.
Fiduciary	Moderate	Some capacity constraints might exist in terms of financial management and procurement within the IP that can delay project implementation. This will be rectified with identification of limited UNDP support to execution and training needs in procurement and financial management for PMU staff
Stakeholder	Moderate	There is a concern that the mechanisms and incentives designed to promote sustainable biodiversity finance and mainstream biodiversity-friendly practices within specific sectors may not yield the intended financial impact. The financial viability of these mechanisms might not be adequate for their long-term scalability. The process of conservation planning, especially in declaring protection regimes for areas with diverse land uses and stakeholder interests, is iterative and time-consuming. This extended timeframe may not always align with the constraints of a 6-year project. The immediate recognition of the benefits associated with sustainable, nature-positive approaches in tourism, fisheries, and livelihood improvement by stakeholders may be challenging. This reluctance to engage in the project can be addressed by identifying capacity development and training needs. Additionally, showcasing nature-based activities through demonstrations can serve as an effective means to incentivize community and stakeholder involvement.
Other		n/a

Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	Previous lesson of the GEF and other donor supported project will be taken into consideration during project formulation.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project is consistent with *BD-1-1: Financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of protected area systems. Relevant* project components include identification and implementation of finance solutions to bridge the finance gap in short, medium and long term at the local levels (Output 2.5), such as linking with government sector financing, generating revenues from conservation and tourism activities and supporting private-sector led biodiversity-friendly small-scale enterprises that will build community support for conservation. The project is also supporting the improved management effectiveness of a number of PAs through management planning, ecological restoration demonstration, enhance the viability of the PA network by collaborative efforts with local communities in PA buffers and natural corridors, enhance management of KBAs and OECMs through policy, guidelines and management in relation (Output 1.3 and 2.3), improve private sector support for supporting community engagement in nature-positive activities (Output 2.4). *In terms of BD 1-4*, the project will focus on mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable natural resource use in the landscape/seascape level and mainstreaming in planning and development sectors (Component 1) in agriculture, forest, tourism, and other relevant disciplines at the municipal level with the aim to improve/enhance positive environmental practices in these sectors. Without the GEF project, it is likely that there will be limited effort at strengthening the integration of biodiversity in municipal, local and sector developmental level planning that will likely result in further loss of biodiversity, associated habitats and ecosystem services. Project components include improved planning processes that address direct threat to habitat loss by increasing habitats through conservation and restoration of key ecosystems (Component 2 overall), improved PA and OECM management effectiveness in combination with sustainable enterprise and business opportunities; enhancing conservation outside PAs, and other natural and productive use areas; capacity building and improved community participation in sustainable resource use practices to reduce threats and community livelihood improvement to reduce unsustainable practices (Output 2.4). In terms of BD 3*: To increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity* - the project aims to identify and mobilize domestic resources for investment in biodiversity conservation and NbS. In terms of BD 3-1, it would undertake a limited assessment of financial needs and develop a domestic resource mobilization plan for application at the landscape/seascape levels. In terms of BD 3-2, the project will facilitate the implementation of the resource mobilization plan, working closely with the PA and forest entities to enhance their capacity for resource mobilization through targeted training programs and their capacity for making investments of NbS through development of guidelines and availability best practice examples.

In terms of the GEF-8 Land Degradation Focal Area, the project aligns with *Objective 1: Avoid and reduce land degradation through sustainable land management (SLM)*; and *objective 2: Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration (LD-1 & LD-2) of the programming directions*. In terms of LD 1, the project will aim to avoid and reduce degradation through promoting an integrated and collaborative planning and decision-making approach to reduce inherent conflicts to land and resource use. It will focus on best practices in forestry, grazing, tourism (marine and terrestrial) and agriculture to reduce harmful impacts and promote nature-friendly practices to reduce chemical usage, promote soil fertility improvements, reduce erosion, promote mixed cropping to conserve soil and improve habitat for species in cultivable areas. Under Component 2 and supported by the enabling framework of Component 1, the project will focus on smallholder farms (production landscapes) with the landscape/seascapes. The project will include support for improved access to technical assistance and finance for smallholders to implement innovative agricultural practices (climate smart agriculture) for sustainable land management, protect ecosystem services, and improve profitability (improved profitability will be used as an indicator of project success). Project SLM interventions will target the drivers of land degradation within a framework of integrated community planning, governance and management at landscape scale. These activities would be undertaken through active community mobilization and involvement, including men, women, youth and other distinct groups. Upscaling will be achieved through extension programs and sharing of successful interventions through community exchanges and visits (Component 4). Strategies pursued with the private sector will target SMEs that are promoting innovations in

agriculture, forestry and livestock production systems and improved access to markets including in the tourism sector, as well as improvements in the environmental performance of the infrastructure sector.

Table 5: Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation (Ratings S- substantial, M – medium, L- low)

Risk Categories	Rating	Comments
Climate	Moderate	Improved conservation actions, community livelihoods and nature-based solutions involves risk of: Sensitivity or vulnerability to impacts of climate change or disasters and increase in vulnerability to climate change or risks now or in the future. This will be managed by ensuring that all agriculture and livelihood activities will take into account the possibility of drought, flooding and climate conditions and designed accordingly and communication lines established by the PMU with the communities during the stakeholder engagement process will be used by community members to report any problems related to project activities (for example damaged infrastructure) in order to facilitate addressing the issue expeditiously. See Annex D
Environment and Social	Moderate	Seven risks were identified in the SES risks in relation to the planned project results and activities. The project overall SES risks in relation to the planned project results and activities is considered moderate risk. This is consistent with the UNDP-GEF approach that all UNDP-GEF projects that include on the ground activities related to protected areas must be classified as at least 'moderate' risk. See Annex D
Political and Governance	Moderate	Despite the overall high political and institutional commitment of the Government agencies to the project and its individual components, the project coordination and the synergy between the individual components may be negatively affected by the highly sectoral nature and the procedural peculiarities of the governmental authorities and agencies in the country. Being in full ownership and implementation by the Government, the project may be affected by the internal governmental trends and flows and lose its integral nature and planned cross-sectoral and multi-level impact policies.
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	Montenegro boasts a well-established planning and regulatory framework that aligns with the latest international standards, particularly those set by the European Union. Despite this, the existing capacities may prove inadequate for the timely and effective implementation of these standards. There exists a potential risk that the strategic, regulatory, and planning reforms introduced by this project to enhance biodiversity may remain confined to high-quality written documents upon project completion, lacking full implementation. The government's policy aimed at promoting economic development introduces potential implications for the project, particularly concerning its impact on the sensitive coastal and marine ecosystems. To address this concern, the project's design will explicitly illustrate that economic development goals can be more successfully achieved through sustainable practices. The strategy involves exposure to best practices, technical assistance, and comprehensive planning support, establishing a robust foundation for effectively managing the potential threat posed by conflicting government policies.
Technological	Moderate	Considering the potential impact of restricted technical capabilities on the successful realization of intended outcomes, the project design will incorporate a comprehensive capacity needs assessment. Where possible, activities will be strategically developed, taking into account both the current institutional capacity and additional requirements for capacity building, training, and technical support. This approach aims to address any existing constraints and promote effective integrated management approaches for coastal and marine area
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	The prevailing economic instability within the country poses significant challenges in terms of government resources and staff availability, including co-financing. Throughout the project preparation phase, an in-depth evaluation will be conducted to identify the additional technical and national consultant support necessary, considering institutional and capacity constraints. In addressing co-financing aspects, practical options have been identified and will be rigorously validated. This validation process aims to secure substantial co-financing by leveraging existing externally mobilized investments, thereby alleviating the burden on government financing.
Capacity for Implementation	Moderate	The diverse management structures for Protected Areas (PAs) and KBAs, determined by their category, international status, and mandate, may pose challenges for executing specific project activities. The constrained capacity of government administrative bodies to seamlessly integrate economic and ecological considerations into development planning has the potential to impede project implementation. This issue will be thoroughly examined, and plans will be devised in collaboration with the Implementation Partner (IP). This process will follow the assessment under the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) to pinpoint the requirements for potential UNDP oversight, as well as identify the necessary training and technical support essential for the project implementation phase.

Risk Categories	Rating	Comments
Fiduciary	Moderate	Some capacity constraints might exist in terms of financial management and procurement within the IP that can delay project implementation. This will be rectified with identification of limited UNDP support to execution and training needs in procurement and financial management for PMU staff
Stakeholder	Moderate	There is a concern that the mechanisms and incentives designed to promote sustainable biodiversity finance and mainstream biodiversity-friendly practices within specific sectors may not yield the intended financial impact. The financial viability of these mechanisms might not be adequate for their long-term scalability. The process of conservation planning, especially in declaring protection regimes for areas with diverse land uses and stakeholder interests, is iterative and time-consuming. This extended timeframe may not always align with the constraints of a 6-year project. The immediate recognition of the benefits associated with sustainable, nature-positive approaches in tourism, fisheries, and livelihood improvement by stakeholders may be challenging. This reluctance to engage in the project can be addressed by identifying capacity development and training needs. Additionally, showcasing nature-based activities through demonstrations can serve as an effective means to incentivize community and stakeholder involvement.
Other	NA	Not applicable
Financial Risks for NGI projects	NA	Not applicable
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	Previous lesson of the GEF and other donor supported project will be taken into consideration during project formulation.

In terms of Climate Change FA, it aligns with CCM 1.4 '*Promote nature-based solutions with high mitigation potential*' the project will support mitigation actions in terms of reduced degradation of KBAs in particular from degradation caused by fires, unsustainable grazing, indiscriminate use of forest products and forest clearing. It will bring carbon mitigation benefits through improvement in steppe grassland management through management with medium inputs, and improvements in arable crop lands that will generate climate benefits. This will also generate significant co-benefits, notably in terms of improved and sustainable livelihoods for farmers and rural communities (including fishers and coastal communities) to enhanced biodiversity outcomes and reduced upstream land and coastal degradation threatened by unsustainable and increased exploitation and impacts of climate change. The design of the landscape/seascape activities to be defined through the integrated planning process will take into consideration gender-specific actions to enhance their more productive use of these resources and increase their resilience to climate change impacts through diversification of incomes, capacity building and enhanced awareness on managing climate risks.

Table 6: Conformity with Existing National Strategies and plans

Strategy/Plan	Conformity with the proposed project	Focus of project
National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2016-2020	Regarding NBSAP 2016 – 2020 goals and targets, project will provide direct contribution towards: • B: Biodiversity is protected by multidisciplinary and multisector approach • C: An efficient mechanism for financing of biodiversity protection achieved, as well as a switch to sustainable biodiversity economy • F: Environmental infrastructure as the basis for conservation of national biodiversity created • G: Knowledge of biodiversity improved, systematized and widely and equally available through developed mechanisms New National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan main aim is to transpose KMGBF into national context so that it will contribute to the implementation of KMGBF.	The project will support: multidisciplinary and multisector approach in landscape/seascape planning and mainstreaming financing mechanisms for delivery of international obligations for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, strengthening of policy and regulatory framework, plans, guidelines and planning frameworks to support integrated landscape/seascape planning, including ecosystem restauration, innovative financial mechanisms and management of invasive alien species, identification of OECMs and MPAs with clear recommendation on the efficient management implementation practice, planning and piloting restauration of degraded ecosystems and establishment of information and monitoring system for GBF and SDG-s related targets

National Strategy of Sustainable Development until 2030	Direct contribution towards following strategic goals: • 3.1 STOP DEGRADATION OF VALUES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES: BIODIVERSITY, WATER, SEA, AIR, SOIL • Enable efficient protection of protected areas of nature, ecologically valuable habitats, forest, water and coastal ecosystems, protected species of flora and fauna, air and soil SDG 3 (3.9), SDG 6 (6.2,6.3, 6.6), SDG 9 (9.4), SDG 11 (11.4, 11.6), SDG 13 (13.1), SDG 15 (15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.7, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a, 15.c), Promote monitoring of biodiversity, waters, sea, air and soil status SDG 2 (2.4), SDG 3 (3.9), SDG 6 (6.3, 6.5, 6.6), SDG 11 (11.6), SDG 12 (12.4), SDG 14 (14.c), SDG 15 (15.1, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a, 15.c) • 3.2 IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Identify values of ecologically valuable habitats and ecosystems and revise the status of the exiting protected areas of nature SDG 12 (12.2), 14 (14.2, 14.5), SDG 15 (15.1, 15.2, 15.4, 15.5, 15.9), 3.2.2 Build capacities for integrated management of protected areas of nature, ecologically valuable habitats and ecosystems SDG 12 (12.2), SDG 14 (14.1, 14.2, 14.5, 14.7, 14.a), SDG 15 (15.1, 15.2, 15.4, 15.5, 15.9), SDG 17 (17.4, 17.15), 3.2.3 Enable resource efficient utilization of forest resources SDG 7 (7.a), SDG 8 (8.3), SDG 13 (13.1), SDG 15 (15.1, 15.2, 15.5, 15.9, 15.a, 15.b)	The project will support: Participatory mapping of biological, social, environmental, economic and institutional features of selected pilot landscapes/seascapes to development baselines biodiversity values, resource conditions, resource use and threats, Integrated and inclusive landscape/seascape plans developed and approved (that entails a multi-sectoral shared vision for zoning of the landscape/seascape, actions for mainstreaming biodiversity into local and sectoral plans/policies, and promotion of nature-based solutions to resource governance and use etc.), Ecological restoration of degraded and fragmented areas (e.g. forest lands, catchments, coastal and marine ecosystems, IAS infested and fire destroyed areas, etc.) to enhance biodiversity, ecosystem services and habitat connectivity as well as improvement of monitoring practices.
Action Plan for Closing Benchmark Chapter 27- Environment and Climate Change	Action Plan for Closing Benchmark Chapter 27- Environment and Climate Change is a road map for EU association process of Montenegro so project will directly contribute to following activities defined within Action plan: • 5.14 Improvement of professional capacities at competent protected areas managers • 5.15 Building administrative capacities in services responsible for protection, and professional services of PECZM, PENP, local governments and other PA managers • 5.18 Improved management of PAs • 5.69 Adoption of the Management Plan for invasive alien species of concern • 5.70 Monitoring the status of IAS	Project will be focused on following activities relevant to actions from Action Plan for Closing Benchmark Chapter 27- Environment and Climate Change: • Development of policy and regulatory amendments, plans, guidelines and planning frameworks to support integrated landscape/ seascape planning, including ecosystem restoration, innovative financial mechanisms and management of IAS and Gender focused capacity building for government officers, extension staff, community groups, NGOs, etc., plus technology transfer and equipment for monitoring, financing and mainstreaming of biodiversity ensuring that training and extension programs are gender-focused and gender-responsive
National Forest Strategy 2014-2023.	Regarding National Forest Strategy project will provide direct contribution towards: 1. Improvement of forests through sustainable management 4. Protection of biodiversity and other forest ecosystem services	Project will be focused on following activities relevant to actions from National Forest Strategy 2014-2023.: • Development of policy and regulatory amendments, plans, guidelines and planning frameworks to support integrated landscape/ seascape planning, including ecosystem restoration of degraded and fragmented areas (e.g. forest lands, catchments, coastal and marine ecosystems, IAS infested and fire

		destroyed areas, etc.) to enhance biodiversity, ecosystem services and habitat connectivity
Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2021 – 2027 and IPARD III	Montenegro disposes of limited agricultural land resources, preventing agriculture, as a sector, to make a more significant contribution to rural development. For that reason, diversifying economic activities in rural areas of Montenegro is very important, and development has to be focused on non-agricultural activities using all available human resources.	Project will focus on stimulating the diversification of the non-agricultural economy at the local/regional level focusing on encouraging economic growth. The following are particularly relevant • Local natural and physical resources • Quality of local governance (policy consistency and its implementation, support programs, absence of corruption). • Local infrastructure that includes a network of roads, phone lines, internet, social services • Connections with the urban area. Economic growth in rural areas is often dependent on the strength of functional links with urban centers. These links can be formed through the supply of inputs, the supply of consumables through the income of the population employed in urban centers, or income generated by the sale of products in the city. • Social capital. The non-agricultural rural economy is not only based on the state administration and formally established economic structures but also on the local private sector and civil society (associations, NGOs, producer associations). Therefore, a decentralized decision-making process with an efficient and adequate institutional environment is an important precondition for the rural economy diversification
Tourism Development Strategy of Montenegro 2022-2025. with the Action Plan	The operational goal proposed by the strategy, which refers to the diversification of the tourist product, includes important measures in terms of climate risk reduction. It is essential that these regions are supported in developing adequate infrastructure and capacity to cope with the increased number of visitors in relation to potential changes in climate parameters and resource base (e.g. beach loss, increased water scarcity).	The project will help Montenegro managing the destination in a sustainable way, creating an innovative, green and inclusive tourist product, influencing the increase in tourist consumption, reducing seasonality and regional unevenness, with the aim of raising the standard of living of the local population and the satisfaction of tourists.
Regional Development Strategy	The internal policy of the regional development of Montenegro refers to the definition of clear processes, mechanisms and measures that will enable an increase in productivity, i.e. an increase in competitiveness, and thus the degree of development of Montenegro as a whole.	Achieve a more balanced socio-economic development of all local self-government units and regions, based on competitiveness, innovation and employment. Priority areas of development defined by this project are focused and integrated through smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
UNDP Nature Pledge 2030	Catalyze - global narrative shift, economic and finance system shift, and policy and practice shift	The project will promote actions aligned with the UNDP national pledge in transforming financial modalities for biodiversity conservation

Table 7: Contribution to key Global Programs

Program	Program targets/goals	Project conformity with targets/goals
Sustainable Development Goals	SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture,	The project will facilitate promotion of nature-positive small-scale enterprises and livelihood operations to help improve nutrition and food security
	SDG 5: Gender Equality	Project investments are targeted at enhancing the role of women in decision-making, economic benefits to women and promote gender equality

	SDG 13: Climate Action	The project will promote climate resilience through enhanced conservation outcomes, ensuring sustainable natural resources use that reduces climate negative impacts on critical ecosystems and support diversification of incomes and livelihoods
	SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development	Through the promotion of enhancing of the marine conservation estate, the intent is to ensure delivery of sustainable ecosystem services
	SDG 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	The focus of the project is to enhance the conservation estate at the landscape level to enhance conservation outcomes within existing PAs and through creation of OECMs
Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)	GOAL A: Maintain ecosystem integrity, connectivity, resilience; halt extinctions; maintain genetic diversity by 2050.	The project through its integrated landscape/seascape approach and expansion of conservation outcomes through improved PA management and creation of OECMs intends to improve ecological connectivity between component parts of these landscapes /seascapes
	GOAL B: Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development	The intent of the project is improve the provision of sustained ecosystem goods and services through creation of awareness, enhancing sustainable harvest regimes tied to improved value chains and livelihoods to create opportunities for local community participation in achieving conservation outcomes, while improving the contribution of forests and natural habitats and associated ecosystems to benefit local communities.
	Goal D: Ensure adequate implementation, including finance, capacity, technology and science. Target 1: Ensure that all areas are under participatory integrated biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land and sea use change	The project intends promoting an integrated, participatory and inclusive landscape/seascape planning and management approach to resource governance and use
	Target 1: Plan and manage all areas to reduce biodiversity loss	To meet this requirement, the project will support a participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning exercise in the 3 target landscape/seascapes to bring these areas under improved management and safeguard their ecological integrity.
	Target 2: At least 30 percent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration	To meet the above goal, the project intends to reduce degradation by improved and sustainable management of 629,000 ha of terrestrial habitats and 2,400 ha of marine habitats for biodiversity conservation and restore about 6,000 ha of degraded habitats.
	Target 3: At least 30 percent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas effectively conserved and managed including over their traditional territories.	To meet this goal, the project intends to improved management effectiveness of 70,651.40 ha of terrestrial PAs and 2,016.19 ha of marine PAs,
	Target 10: Ensure agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably	The overall intent of the project is to ensure through improved ecosystem services delivered that fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture and other livelihood activities within the landscape/seascape sites are managed in a sustainable fashion.
	Target 11: Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people	The project recognizes and promotes maintenance and enhanced contribution of these landscape/seascapes for the economic benefit of local communities through its conservation and sustainable use.
	Target 14: Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes.	Outputs 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are directed on ensuring integrated and cross-sectoral planning and budgeting across the landscapes/seascapes to avoid activities that impact biodiversity.
	Target 19: Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner	Output 2.5 seeks to improve financing for conservation actions, such as Outputs 2.3 and 2.4 seek private sector engagement (and resources) to support co-management models in resource use and the development of small business and value chain programs respectively
	Target 20: Strengthen capacity building and scientific cooperation	The project will build capacity for spatial planning, integrated landscape/seascape planning and share best practices regionally

	Target 21: Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective management of biodiversity,	Component 3 is specifically geared at improving inventory and sharing information in particular related to effectiveness of PAs, OECMs and other conservation areas
	Target 22: Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice	The overall intent of the project is to ensure full and inclusive participation of all stakeholders (including women, youth and ethnic groups) in decision making, access to information and benefit sharing from project interventions.

Incremental/Additional Cost reasoning

Baseline	Alternative to be put in place	Project impact including GEBs
Component 1. Enabling framework strengthened for safeguarding biodiversity and combating natural resources and ecosystem degradation in Montenegro		
-Planning and management of terrestrial, marine and coastal resources are governed by a multitude of separate sector policies, legislation, regulations and institutional arrangements that make it impossible to ensure complementarity - Policies and practices will continue to promote the capitalization of natural resources for economic development at the expense of maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services - Limited information and monitoring of drivers and pressures that act at multiple spatial, temporal and political scales results in uncertainties and challenges. - Limited recognition and capacity for considering the complexity of the geological, geomorphological and climatic reality of the land and sea linkages - Lack of understanding of, and capacity to use spatial planning tools, the technical knowledge to evaluate and define ecosystem services and their socioeconomic value, as well as the ability to determine trade-offs using readily available decision-making systems - Full range of ecosystem services and biological diversity values are rarely integrated into sectoral and developmental plans, impeding their ecological and hydrological functioning.	-Transformative integrated and inclusive planning and management of landscapes and seascapes through a multi-disciplinary marine spatial planning exercise - Improved guidelines, tools and practices to identify best options for implementation of integrated management plans that is best suited for the effective and sustainable management of land and marine systems in the country - Improved and adaptive planning and management of biodiversity and habitats through improved information availability - Capacity for integrated approaches for management of landscapes/seascapes strengthened - Improved inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration across sectors and interests that support integrated and inclusive plans for land, coastal and marine environments - Improved recognition of the value of conservation of KBAs and HCVFs that lie outside PAs	-Improved policy, plans and guidelines developed for promotion of integrated planning and biodiversity mainstreaming -Coordination arrangements and protocols in place to ensure effective multi-stakeholder and multi-sector planning - Increased capacity of institutions for spatial planning related to mainstreaming biodiversity in development plans and programs -Improved monitoring mechanisms in place with standard protocols and procedures for assessing the effectiveness of mainstreaming biodiversity in sector and development planning -Policies, guidelines and management structures approved for recognition of OECMs
Component 2: Promotion of enhanced ecological, biological and social benefits from landscape/ seascape planning and management		
-Degradation of forests, coastal and marine ecosystems -Globally significant biodiversity, habitats and natural ecosystems are lost due to loss or degradation of agricultural lands, wetlands, grasslands, coastal and marine areas and forest	-Resource use in catchment areas are effectively managed in accordance to rules, regulations and self-enforcement by local communities -Nature-based solutions implemented for degraded agricultural, pastoral, forest, marine and coastal areas and production lands in the catchments	-Integrated landscape/ seascape plans developed and approved covering 215,750 hectares (in 6 target clusters) -Improved management effectiveness of 70,651.40

-Human use of natural resources and productive areas are often unsustainable resulting in their loss and degradation -Limited opportunities to promote sustainable economic development opportunities and alternative livelihoods to existing unsustainable activities -Enhanced flow of pollution into the Sea due to poor land-based practices	-Improved information, procedures and practices reduces conflicts arising from different priorities and needs for use of catchment resources -Alternative livelihood products and value chain enterprises available to promote more sustainable use of natural resources -Improved and efficient management of PAs	hectares of terrestrial PAS and 2,016,19 hectares of marine PAs -50,000 Hectares of OECMs identified, management plans prepared and under implementation -At least 3,000 hectares of degraded forest, grazing and fire and IAS damaged land restored - At least 3,000 hectares of degraded agricultural land under restored under SLM in production systems - 500 number of community members, trained and undertaking SLM practices - Resource based assessments, financial solutions and resource mobilization strategy (ies) developed - At least five number of nature-based livelihood and value chain solutions implemented in cooperation with the private sector, with at least two specifically focusing on women groups. -3,988,848 tonnes CO_2 eq mitigated over 20 year period
Component 3. Strengthening information and monitoring system for GBF and SDG-s related targets		
-Lack of adequate and reliable information available for informed decision-making -Limited understanding on the degree of trends, threats and impacts of development activities on the environment -Limited capacity and lack of system for effective sharing of information	-Improved information available for informed decision-making -Capacity exists for data collection and monitoring	-Environmental information and monitoring system fully operational, staffed with clear procedures for data collection and monitoring of the project demonstration landscapes/ seascapes - 30 number of people trained and actively engaged in data collection and monitoring - Environmental information portal functional, updated and accessible to decision-makers
Component 4: Knowledge management and replication		
-Marine, Coastal and terrestrial ecosystems remain poorly appreciated due to lack of baseline information - Awareness and understanding about biodiversity, ecosystem service values and threats is limited at all levels and in all	-Increased awareness and knowledge sharing promote community, private industry and stakeholder conservation actions - Results and lessons learned from project are made available to a wide national and regional audience	-Improved awareness among sampled stakeholders on importance of threats and benefits of nature-friendly activities -At least ten lessons of best practices in conservation and

sectors, which constrains engagement and behavior change. -No comprehensive efforts to raise awareness of the benefits and need for conservation of globally threatened and endemic species, habitats, ecosystem management and threat reduction -Lack of effective information sharing, coordination and sharing of experiences at hinders collaborative regional coordination	-Increased level of awareness and information available to support a coordinated and collaborative effort	sustainable use available for public access - At least ten regional knowledge sharing events supported

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:

Civil Society Organizations:

Private Sector:

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

During the PIF phase consultation was limited, but a broad approach to stakeholder engagement will be developed during the PPG stage and continued into project implementation, including specifically enhancing consultations with the private sector, local communities, women, youth and ethnic minorities and their institutions and state and local level entities. Consultation will ensure the application of FPIC principles where relevant and in the establishment of strong partnerships across government (at all levels) to achieve their active participation for sustainable biodiversity-related natural resources and economic development.

Table 10: Consultations during PIF stage

Name of the expert/ institute	Description	Date
GEF operational focal point	The basic project concept and identification of potential interventions	February 2023
GEF operational focal point, Ministry of environment Ministry of agriculture	Project structure and priorities definition, pre LoE consultations. LoE signing and issued	March 2023

GEF operational focal point, Ministry of environment	Finalization of the PIF	February 2023
Workshop for National council for Sustainable development on sustainable finance and project development	Consultation with work group members	April 2023
Team responsible for mainstreaming biodiversity into the Spatial plan of Montenegro	Defining the geographical area targeted by the project, priority interventions	Continuous consultations with the team. Verification workshops: November 2023 and February 2024
Directorate for environment protection of the Ministry of environment	The basic project concept and the geographical area targeted by the project.	September 2023 December 2023 January 2024 February 2024
Agency for Environment protection	The basic project concept and the geographical area targeted by the project.	September 2023 January 2024 February 2024
GIS expert working on GEF 7 project	The basic project concept and the geographical area targeted by the project.	December 2023 January 2024 February 2024
Local Communities, Civil Society Organizations, and Private Sector	National council for Sustainable development on sustainable finance and project development. Consultation with work group members	December 2023

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
UNDP	GET	Montenegro	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	2,068,184.00	196,477.00	2,264,661.00
UNDP	GET	Montenegro	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-4	Grant	2,036,714.00	193,487.00	2,230,201.00
UNDP	GET	Montenegro	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	420,000.00	39,900.00	459,900.00
UNDP	GET	Montenegro	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	469,395.00	44,593.00	513,988.00
UNDP	GET	Montenegro	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-3	Grant	600,000.00	57,000.00	657,000.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**5,594,293.00**	**531,457.00**	**6,125,750.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

150000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

14250

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
UNDP	GET	Montenegro	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00
UNDP	GET	Montenegro	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-4	Grant	54,611.00	5,188.00	59,799.00
UNDP	GET	Montenegro	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	10,000.00	950.00	10,950.00
UNDP	GET	Montenegro	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	13,847.00	1,315.00	15,162.00
UNDP	GET	Montenegro	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-3	Grant	21,542.00	2,047.00	23,589.00
Total PPG Amount ($)						**150,000.00**	**14,250.00**	**164,250.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
UNDP	GET	Montenegro	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	3,000,000.00
UNDP	GET	Montenegro	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,290,000.00
UNDP	GET	Montenegro	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
Total GEF Resources					**6,290,000.00**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
BD-1-1	GET	1,060,000.00	9110000
BD-1-4	GET	1,008,184.00	8900000
BD-3-1	GET	250,000.00	2125000
BD-3-2	GET	350,000.00	3200000

LD-1	GET	420,000.00	3800000
LD-2	GET	469,395.00	3750000
CCM-1-4	GET	2,036,714.00	17515000
Total Project Cost		**5,594,293.00**	**48,400,000.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	4300000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	43000000
Private Sector	Hotel and resort owners, small business owners, etc.	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
Total Co-financing				**48,400,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Note: above figures to be validated during PPG stage

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (USD 43,000,000) in public investment through the following programs: Enhanced resilience of smallholders' livelihoods to climate change, Improved resilience of ecosystems and infrastructures assets, strategies and mechanisms for mountain adaptation, based on lessons from project approaches and implementation, are integrated at municipal and national level, Agriculture and rural development (including activities in the forestry sector), Capacity strengthening of the Fisheries Directorate, Technical assistance to the Food Safety, Veterinary, and Phytosanitary Affairs Administration, creating clusters of value chains for sustainable and resilient rural transformation, investments in the development of rural infrastructure (roads and water) with the aim of cluster development

Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development (USD 4,301,474) in public investment through the following programs: increased institutional administrative capacity for implementing and enforcing the environmental EU acquis in the field of nature protection by supporting of gathering of the data on distribution of habitats and species on the terrestrial territory of Montenegro, determination of sites proposed to be part of Natura 2000 ecological network in Montenegro, communication activities regarding Natura 2000 sites and protection rules with landowners and general public, defining and initial long-term monitoring plan of habitats and species and capacity building regarding management of Natura 2000 sites, early actions to implement the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by providing financial and technical support to Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in their work to review and align their national targets, NBSAPs, policy frameworks,

monitoring frameworks and finance with the Global Biodiversity Framework, rehabilitation of Biogradsko Lake, rehabilitation of Ada Bojana.

Private Sector (USD 1,000,000) in kind contribution that will be assessed at PPG stage

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Nancy Bennet	3/20/2024		+12129065044	nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Coordinator	Monica Moldovan	3/20/2024			monica.moldovan@undp.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Nikola Tomasevic	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Tourism, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development	3/25/2024
Nikola Tomasevic	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Tourism, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development	2/26/2024

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

The project will target three landscapes/seascapes based on criteria discussed in Section A of the PIF. The description of the three landscapes/seascapes are provided below:

Northern Landscape (consisting of the Kovač, Ljubišnja and Proscenske mountains and Ćehotina river).

On Kovač Mountain, 11 types of NATURA 2000 habitats have been mapped. The majority of the area is covered by Mountain Hay Meadows, while Species-Rich Grasslands of Dry Heath (Nardus stricta) on silicate substrates of mountainous regions and Calcareous Rocky Outcrops with Chasmophytic Vegetation are recorded only at one location each. According to the data from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Management, this zone hosts excellent stands of Illyrian Beech Forests and Acidophilous Mountain Spruce Forests (Vaccinio-Piceetea). This underscores the significant importance of the area in terms of habitats. On the territory, there are 36 conservation significant species. The most notable species are: *Bombina variegata (Linnaeus, 1758), Osmoderma eremita/barnabita (Scopoli, 1763), Euplagia quadripunctaria (Poda, 1761), Ursus arctos Linnaeus, 1758, Parnassius mnemosyne (Linnaeus, 1758).*

Area of Ljubišnja is Emerald, IPA, IBA site. In Ljubišnja, 10 types of NATURA 2000 habitats have been mapped. The most significant are Acidophilous Mountain Spruce Forests (Vaccinio-Piceetea), which exhibit excellent representativeness and rich biodiversity. On the territory, there are 28 conservation significant species. The most notable species are: *Osmoderma eremita/barnabita (Scopoli, 1763), Buxbaumia viridis, Parnassius apollo (Linnaeus, 1758), Barbastella barbastellus, Vertigo angustior Jeffreys, 1830, Helix dormitoris (Kobelt, 1898) and Sorex alpinus Schinz, 1837.* Ljubišnja is a mountain that for the most part, about 70 percent, is covered with forests, especially coniferous forests, which are extremely important for numerous species of birds. Ljubišnja is the most important mountain in Montenegro for the Ural owl, while it is also extremely important for the little owl and the mountain cuckoo owl, the deaf grouse, the woodpecker, the three-toed woodpecker, and many other endangered and protected species.

River Ćehotina is in the procedure of proclamation as national protected area and it is already EMERALD and IBA site. The natural/ecological characteristics and values/features of the area of the confirm the presence of nationally and internationally significant habitats and species, not only in the aquatic realm (Hucho hucho - huchen and other fish species, as well as crayfish and other aquatic organisms) but also in the terrestrial part of this protected area In the area of Ćehotina River, there are recorded 9 types of NATURA 2000 habitats, with the dominance of Alluvial Forests of Black Alder and Mountain Ash (Alno-Padion, Salcion icanae, Salicion albae). In this area, over 47 internationally and nationally significant species have been documented out of which the most important once are: *Rhinolophus hipposideros, Rhinolophus ferrumequinum, Myotis emarginatus, Myotis mystacinus, Myotis oxygnathus, Capreolus capreolus, Lutra lutra, Ursus arctos. Reptiles: Natrix tessellate, Natrix natrix, Zamenis longissimus, Lacerta viridis, Lacerta agilis, Podarcis muralis, Anguis fragilis; Amphibians: Bufo bufo, Bufotes viridis, Rana graeca, Pelopylax ridibundus; Insects: Cerambyx cerdo, Lucanus cervus; Snails: Deroceras turcicum, Malacolimax mrazeki Helix dormitoris.*

Regarding threats and pressures the exploitation of lead and zinc ores has already greatly damaged the area of Ljubišnja and Ljubišnja has been the subject of forest exploitation for decades. The main causes of endangering species and habitats in the watershed of the Ćehotina River are deforestation, fires, overgrowth of grassland habitats, and climate change. Burning meadows by local residents in the future protected area zone as well as in the buffer zone of the area, aiming to protect forest biodiversity. This problem has been evident in recent years in this area, and there is almost no year when a major fire does not occur, with the most common cause being the burning of uncut meadows. Burning meadows results in the destruction and fragmentation of habitats, affecting the lower abundance of individuals and isolating and/or completely eliminating populations.

Fires pose a significant danger to vegetation and natural habitats for species in this area. In addition to the direct destruction of vegetation, fires leave barren areas for a long time, which are difficult to revegetate. Once ignited, a fire is challenging to localize and even more challenging to extinguish. On burned surfaces, there is partial or complete degradation of habitats, regulation of surface and groundwater is disturbed, and landslides and erosion occur. The degradation of habitats not only affects the immediate area burned by the fire but also a significant area of the surrounding area, displacing fauna.

In terms of more effective fire protection, it is necessary to establish regular monitoring and timely response, provide a system for efficient firefighting, and work on educating the local population about fire prevention.

Illegal fishing/poaching appears to be the most intensive negative pressure in this area. Although it has significantly decreased in recent years, illegal fishing/poaching (setting nets and using electro-generators) is still unfortunately present. This is destructive not only for the fish schools specifically targeted but also for all other organisms in the water and the habitat itself. Destroying fish fry in this way prevents the fish from growing and leaving offspring, making overfishing even more intensive. By placing the upper reaches of the Ćehotina River under protection, it can contribute to suppressing this phenomenon. Solid waste (construction materials, etc.) - the solid waste disposal system is irregular and disorganized, often leading to the spontaneous formation of small illegal landfills or dumping waste directly into the riverbed. Tourism - the construction of larger tourist facilities can have a negative impact on the future protected area in terms of altering natural and landscape values and polluting the upper course of the Ćehotina River. Pesticide and chemical runoff can affect the aquatic life in the river, although it likely does not have a significant impact at the moment due to low agricultural development in the area. Illegal hunting and poaching - Despite the significant decrease in recent years, illegal hunting and poaching are still present, posing a threat to various species in the canyon, both through hunting and significant disturbance during

the breeding season. Waste water - Due to the lack of or undeveloped wastewater collection and treatment systems, untreated wastewater from built structures or septic tanks often contaminates the soil or flows directly into the river, affecting water quality. This problem is exacerbated by the lack of adequate waste disposal systems.

Cross-border impact - As the Ćehotina River is transboundary, activities in Albania may influence the downstream flow in Montenegro. Albania has built several small hydropower plants (mHE) on its territory against the Espoo Convention, and their precise impacts on the part of the Ćehotina River in Montenegro are unknown but presumed to negatively affect fish stocks and sediment in sand and gravel.

Regarding socio economic conditions since area is rich in forests local citizens use forests especially in Ljubisnja mountain and Kovac. Regarding Ćehotina River development of the now neglected rural area and thus to the sustainability of local development through alternatives to economic activities that relate to a high degree of pollution and intensive exploitation of natural resources is very important potential. Eco-tourism and nature-based tourism can stimulate local economic growth, enabling the involvement of local communities in this area. Tourist interest in eco-tourism, rural and fishing tourism in Pljevlja and the area of the upper flow of the Ćehotina is evident, along with the growing trend in the number of tourists and overnight stays.

Western Landscape/Seascape (consisting of Orijen and Lovćen Mountains, Boka Bay and Luštica Peninsula)

The most important areas regarding biodiversity in this landscape/seascape are:

Orjen

In 2009 the Municipal Assembly of Herceg Novi passed an act declaring the protected area Orjen Nature Park, which protects the part of the KBA that belongs to this municipality**.**

Orjen is of significance for the following biodiversity groups: vascular plants, mosses, fungi, and invertebrates. In the limited area of Orjen, 15 types of NATURA 2000 habitats are recorded. Carbonate rocks with hemicryptophyte vegetation exhibit floristic poverty but a high degree of endemism. In the village of Kruševice, at a biologically and culturally significant location near the pond Lastva, at least 8 internationally and nationally significant species of bats have been recorded, including the very rare forest species Myotis bechsteinii. In the immediate vicinity, there is a maternity colony of this species. The pond Lastva (42.525087, 18.488956) represents an exceptional habitat for bats, providing them primarily with food. It is an oasis in the rugged karst covered with shrubby vegetation, connected to pastures and agricultural land on the northern side and mature beech forests on the southern side.

On the territory, there are 103 conservationally significant species. Some notable species recorded in Orjen include *Aquilegia dinarica, Centaurea incompta, Dianthus knapii, Gentiana lutea, Salvia brachyodon, Scilla litardierei, Leucanthemum chloroticum, Rhamnus intermedius, Athalamia hyalina, Leiocolea collaris, Leiocolea turbinata, Lophozia ascendens, Scapania aequiloba, Campyliadelphus chrysophyllus, Ephemerum recurvifolium, Ephemerum sessile, Orthotrichum patens, Philonotis arnellii, Pseudoleskea saviana, Trematodon ambiguus, Trichostomum triumphans, Albatrellus pes-caprae, Amanita caesarea, Amanita vittadinii, Formica polyctena, Sintula roeweri, Cyphophthalmus martensi.*

Kotor/Tivat/Lovćen

Kotor-Risan Bay

The Bay of Kotor is a significant area for marine biodiversity and marine habitats, with detected diversity centers for the following groups: vascular plants, terrestrial habitats, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, marine organisms, and marine habitats. Various terrestrial habitat types have been identified in this location, including 6170 Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands,

6220* Eumediteranean xerophilous grasslands (Thero-Brachypodietea), 62A0 East sub-Mediterranean dry grasslands (Scorzoneretalia villose), 8120 Calcareous mountain and alpine screes (Thlaspietea rotundifolii); 8130 Western Mediterranean thermophilous screes, 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation, 95A0 High oro-Mediterranean yew and mixed forests. Selected species present in this locality include Centaurea incompta, Centaurea glaberrima, Edraianthus wettsteinii ssp. lovcenicus, Narcissus angustifolius, Scilla litardierei, Tulipa grisebachiana, Berteroa gintlii, Gladiolus palustris, Leucanthemum chloroticum, Ophrys bertolonii, Pulsatilla grandis, Rhamnus intermedius, Saxifraga federici-augustii, Scrophularia bosniaca, Taxus baccata, Lissotriton vulgaris, Triturus macedonicus, Hyla arborea, Rana shqiperica, Podarcis melisellensis, Algiroides nigropunctatus, Adriolacerta oxycephala, Mauremys caspica, Emys orbicularis, Oryctes nasicornis, Luciola novaki, Iphiclides podalirius, Crematogaster auberti savinae, Plagiolepis xene, Crematogaster gordani, Crematogaster montenigrinus, Riponnensia morini, Chrysogaster mediteraneus, Cyphophthalmus martensi, Tandonia reuleaxi, Limax wohlberedti, Delphinus delphis, Stenella coeruleoalba, Tadarida teniotis, Tursiops turcatus, Posidonia oceanica, Cymodocea nodosa, Zostera noltii, Zostera marina, Cystoseira spinosa (including C. adriatica), Axinella cannabina, Geodia cydonium, Tethya sp. plur., Lithophaga lithophaga, Luria lurida (= Cypraea lurida), Pinna nobilis, Hippocampus ramulosus, Caretta caretta, Holothuria impatiens, Holothuria polii, Holothuria tubulosa, Savalia savalia, Leptogorgia sarmentosa.

Tivat Saltpans, which is nationally protected as Special Protected Reserve but also is Ramsar area, are an exceptionally significant area in the context of preserving halophytic vegetation that inhabits the muddy-clay substrate. The fact that such habitat types have almost disappeared on the eastern coast of the Adriatic indicates that the importance of this area goes beyond local boundaries. In Montenegro, these habitat types are only present at Tivat Saltpans and Ulcinj Saltpans, which is essential to consider in urban planning. Three types of NATURA 2000 habitats have been recorded at Tivat Saltpans: 1410 Mediterranean salt marshes, 1310 Annual vegetation of mud and sand (Salicornia), and 1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophytic communities of bushy samphire (Salicornetea fruticosi). Type 1410 develops in several locations in Montenegro, but the stands at Tivat Saltpans, along with those at Velika Plaža and Ada Bojana, are the most representative. Tivat Saltpans are an exceptionally important area in terms of bird diversity.

Platamuni

Platamuni MPA is protected as Nature Park from 2021, covering 1087.3 hectares between the Trašte Bay and Cape Žabica on the northwest, and Cape Platamuni near Ploče beach on the southeast. The Nature Park 'Platamuni' is in the municipality of Kotor and contains significant marine and coastal species and habitats. Platamuni has a very high biological potential that needs protection and plays a significant role as a rich fishing resource. Its rich biodiversity features include:Priority habitats for Europe like seagrass meadows of Posidonia oceanica in the Zukovak bay around the Calaft cliffs (Seka Albaneze), Cape Platamuni and Velika Krekavica bay... and amazing sea caves with underwater entrances that provide shelter to the endemic Monk seal. Marine species protected at national and international level like the Neptune grass Cymodocea nodosa, the endemic brown algae Cystoseira amentacea, the endemic cushion (cleractinian) coral Cladocora caespistosa, the hatpin urchin Centrostephanus longispinus, the date mussel Lithophaga lithophaga, the noble pen shell Pinna nobilis, the slipper lobster Scyllarus arctus... and many others.

The Luštica Peninsula

On the Lustica Peninsula, 9 types of NATURA 2000 habitats have been mapped. Forest habitats are particularly significant due to the numerous benefits they provide. Among other things, they mitigate the effects of climate change and play a crucial role in water regulation. The Mediterranean region consistently faces water scarcity, and it is expected to experience an increasing deficit in the future due to climate change. Forests increase the amount of infiltrated water, especially during intense rainfall, positively impacting the water balance and protecting the soil from erosion. Forest communities also have recreational significance and enhance the Mediterranean landscape. There are 52 conservation significant species present in the area.

National Park Lovćen

The geographical position of Lovćen, influenced by three climates - Mediterranean, continental, and mountainous, has resulted in the richness and diversity of its plant life. The National Park encompasses around 1,300 plant species, including a large number of endemics, rare plants, medicinal, aromatic, honey-bearing, and decorative plants. Forest vegetation covers 70% of the total area of the National Park. Shrubs and low forests of black hornbeam are followed by beech forest belts, while above them, on the

northeastern slopes of Štirovnik, and partially on Jezerski Vrh, there is a community of the endemic mountain pine. The remaining 30% of the National Park's area is dominated by meadow and rocky vegetation.

Endemic and rare species in Lovćen National Park include the Lovćen bellflower, Federiko's rock-cress, Grisebach's tulip, blue gentian, zanovijet, spherical skullcap, delicate cubeb, and others. Medicinal, aromatic, and honey-bearing species include yarrow, ground ivy, lemon balm, lemon verbena, immortelle, St. John's wort, tansy, belladonna, gentian, juniper, white hawthorn, and many others. All these plants contribute to the biological diversity of the park, making it an important area for the preservation of plant life. Lovćen is home to a rich variety of wildlife. Numerous representatives of insects inhabit the area, including butterflies, flower flies, bark beetles, stag beetles, ants, rhinoceros beetles, and more. Among amphibians, there are the Montenegro rock lizard, head-banging rock lizard, yellow-bellied toad, green frog, and common toad. Reptiles include the Mosor lizard, sharp-nosed lizard, forest turtle, viper, and slowworm. The bird fauna of Lovćen is diverse and complex, with birds from various habitats, especially those from Skadar Lake, visiting during daily and seasonal migrations. There are over 200 bird species nesting or having migratory status in the area. Some notable nesting species include the black-headed bunting, blackcap, common redstart, rock partridge, nightingale, and others. Among the birds of prey, notable ones include the golden eagle, short-toed eagle, peregrine falcon, and kestrel. The park supports a rich and varied ecosystem, making it a significant area for wildlife observatio Among mammals in the Lovćen area, you can find larger species such as bears, wolves, roe deer, foxes, common hares, and wild boars. Additionally, smaller mammals like squirrels, cave bats, white-breasted hedgehogs, dormice, and others also inhabit the region. The diversity of mammalian species contributes to the overall richness of wildlife in the Lovćen National Park and conservation.

Whole area of Kotor / Tivat / Lovćen is under following threats: unplanned/illegal construction, intensive tourism, lack of quality sewage network with treatment facilities, Port of Kotor (wastewater and ballast water from ships), invasive alien species, plans for intensive agriculture development in Tivat Field, unplanned logging, fires, illegal use of demersal sea resources, wild solid waste dumps.

In socio-economic terms, the entire area is characterized by high tourism potential, with an intention for further expansion. It poses a significant challenge to maintain it within the framework of sustainability and plan further development in a way that preserves the natural values. Platamuni area is also important fishery area that is visited by local population but also illegal activities are present. On Luštica peninsula agriculture is also present.

Southern Landscape/Seascape: (consisting of Skadar lake, Moraca basin, Rumija mountain and the Bojana River delta)

Skadar Lake National Park

Skadar Lake was designated as a national park area in 1983 and, since 1995, it has featured on the Ramsar list of wetlands of international significance, and has also a status of Important birds' area (IBA). Skadarsko Jezero (lake Skadar or Shkodra, named after the Albanian town near its shores) is the largest freshwater lake in the Balkans with a surface varying between 370 and 530 km2 depending on water level fluctuations (regularly up to 4m and more). The karst lake is of tectonic origin with an average depth of 6m. Lake Skadar supports a lush wetland vegetation of floating water plants, various reed, and sedge and willow species. The flora is very rich with more than 25 rare and endemic species, including the endemic water chestnut (Trapa natans scutariensis) in the lake and Skadar oak (Quercus robur scutariensis) in its surroundings. On the hillsides around the lake remain woodlands (including an old-growth chestnut Castanea forests) and Mediterranean shrub communities. The diverse fauna includes endemic invertebrates, 48 fish species in the lake water catchment (39 inside the National Park), 281 bird species, and many other vertebrates. The lake provides important habitats for many species of nesting, staging and wintering waterbirds, some of which are globally threatened (e.g. Dalmatian pelican Pelecanus crispus and pygmy cormorant Phalacrocorax pygmeus). Large numbers of waterbirds occur during spring migration. The lake harbours 279 bird species, some 90% of which are migratory species of international importance. There are more than 50 species of fish, 15 of which are endemic.

The use of resources and other anthropogenic activities in the entire watershed of Lake Skadar creates pressures on its ecosystem.In terms of resource use, the greatest pressure comes from illegal fishing. Illegality manifests in the use of unauthorized tools and methods (such as electric generators, spears, construction), fishing during bans established for spawning, and hunting in permanently prohibited areas such as oxbows, which are important for preserving fish populations. The consequences of illegal fishing include changes in the structure of fish populations (in terms of community composition and the representation of specific species, as well as demographic

structure), and electric fishing also negatively impacts other aquatic fauna, primarily amphibians. In areas where illegal fishing with generators is prevalent, such as Malo Blato, the local population has noticed the disappearance of frogs. Additionally, during low water levels, poachers burn reeds to prepare the terrain for easier electric fishing when the water rises. This is particularly pronounced in the vicinity of Virpazar. Although formally prohibited, bird hunting is still present in the Park territory. Wetland birds, especially ducks (various species) and coots, are the most common targets. Quail hunting with lures in the terrestrial part of the Park and its immediate vicinity (in the Zeta Plain area) is a serious and continuous problem. There are also frequent cases of individual incidents involving the death of large, charismatic species, such as the black vulture, marsh harrier, and similar species. Apart from directly contributing to the mortality of targeted populations, hunting represents a strong form of disturbance and a source of stress for birds and other fauna.

Tourism, which is expanding, brings economic benefits to the local population but also represents a growing pressure on ecosystems. The effects of tourism are reflected in the conversion of natural and semi-natural areas into tourist infrastructure (construction of accommodation and catering facilities), which brings increased volumes of wastewater and solid waste that are not adequately disposed of. Fauna disturbance by tourists becomes more intense due to increased water traffic and the use of speedboats, and water vegetation is also damaged. The presence of tourists in sensitive areas such as nesting sites is also on the rise, creating noise and vibrations that can directly affect breeding success, especially for sensitive species such as pelicans. Tourism in expansion is also conflicting with agricultural production, primarily in the northern part of the lake, along the border with Zeta, where pastures and watering places for livestock have been encroached upon due to tourist infrastructure and visitor presence.

In recent years, increasing pressure comes from invasive species. They have become a growing threat to the native flora and fauna of this area, as well as to economic activities. The identified major threats include the aquatic species Egeria, which is spreading from Plavnica where it was first detected, while on land, problematic species include pampas grass, acacia, ragweed, common cocklebur (Xanthium strumarium), and others. Their spread is particularly pronounced in the Žabljak Meadows and the Zeta Plain along the Park's perimeter, as well as in villages along the southern shore such as Godinje. Abandonment of meadow maintenance through mowing and grazing, as well as climate change, are the main factors leading these species to occupy space. Besides displacing native species and posing an ecological threat, these species also pose a problem for agricultural activities, as they occupy arable land and pastures, bring pests, and alter microclimatic conditions (increasing air humidity and reducing soil drainage). As a result, phytosanitary measures are imposed, requiring more intensive use of pesticides, limiting the potential for organic production. This particularly affects viticulture in the Crmnica region.

Pollution of Lake Skadar is a consequence of the situation in the entire watershed. Pollution primarily originates from inadequately treated municipal wastewater brought by the Morača River, as well as from nutrient runoff from agricultural areas throughout the watershed, resulting in eutrophication. Industrial pollution is less significant than it was in previous decades when the industry was active. Thanks to the lake's flow-through character, eutrophication effects are localized spatially and seasonally. Solid waste is also one of the chronic problems in this area. In addition to improperly disposed of waste by the local population (illegal dumps) and visitors (inefficient waste management within the Park's territory), there is a significant problem of municipal waste reaching the lake from upstream regions through the Morača River and its local tributaries like Orahovštica. Excessive exploitation of species is another pressure in this area, especially in the southern terrestrial parts, where medicinal and aromatic herbs, primarily sage and laurel, wild pomegranate and cornelian cherry fruits, and snakes are harvested without control. Forest habitats are under a constant threat of fire, which is frequent in the terrestrial part of the Park and its surroundings. The threat to terrestrial fauna in the southern part of the Park comes from domestic cats and dogs, whose numbers have increased, becoming dominant predators of lizards, snakes, birds, and other small vertebrates.

This area also experiences a direct conflict between humans and nature in two forms. The first is between fishermen and piscivorous birds like pelicans and cormorants, where fishermen directly kill or disturb these bird species, considering them competition for fish. The second is between agricultural producers and granivorous birds in the Zeta Plain. Farmers set up old fishing nets to catch birds indiscriminately, mainly songbirds, including those under protection. In addition to existing pressures, the ecosystem of Lake Skadar is under threats from the construction of large infrastructure projects outlined in the development plans of Montenegro and Albania. The most significant threat is posed by the projects to build a series of hydroelectric power plants on the Morača River and the regulation of the Bojana River course. Estimates suggest that these projects could significantly disrupt the hydrological regime of the lake and, consequently, its ecological integrity. Apart from these, other threats to ecosystems arise from projects such as the construction of an international traffic marina in Virpazar, a tourist complex on Biški Rep, and a highway section, all of which would

result in habitat loss, additional pollution, and disturbance to the ecosystems. Regarding climate change, its effects are seen in the spread of invasive species and increased frequency of fires, droughts, and extreme weather conditions.

The National Park area holds significant cultural and historical heritage. It is a space containing traces of settlement since prehistoric times, with particular value placed on its rich medieval heritage reflected in monasteries, churches, fortifications, and traditional folk architecture in villages. The local population continues traditional practices of utilizing natural resources, such as traditional fishing and agriculture, old crafts, and customs. Lake Skadar, due to its aesthetic appeal, is a frequent motif in artistic expression and interpretation.

Nature Park River Zeta

Nature Park 'Rijeka Zeta' (V IUCN Category) is proclaimed in 2019 what is one part of KBA Zeta.

The ecosystem diversity of the Zeta Nature Park is currently the only protected area in Montenegro covering the ecosystem of a lowland river, thus contributing to the representativeness of ecosystems within the overall system of protected areas in Montenegro. Within the park, the following ecosystems are represented: Freshwater - flowing waters of the Zeta River, its tributaries Sušica and Matica (Sitnica), wet (marsh) habitats along these watercourses, as well as the Moromiš marshes (with the Brestica River connecting to the Zeta) and Mareza. Forest - consists of floodplain forests dominated by poplar species - white and black (Populus alba and P. nigra) and willows - white and brittle (Salix alba and S. fragilis). They are followed by a belt of thermophilic deciduous forests and thickets with oaks: Turkey oak (Quercus cerris), sessile oak (Q. petraea), and downy oak (Q. frainetto), and other deciduous oaks. These forests are fragments of once widespread oak forests that were cleared to obtain arable land. Grassland - the most prevalent ecosystems in this area. These are mainly meadows and pastures.

The area of the Park is a habitat for many important species. From the perspective of national protection, the following are significant: Skadar oak (Quercus robur scutariensis Cernj.) - an endemic subspecies of oak, with individual trees still found in this area. Zeta soft-mouthed trout (Salmothymus obtusirostris zetensis), an endemic species, still present in the upper reaches of the Zeta River, from Danilovgrad to Glava Zeta. In addition to the mentioned species, many other rare and endangered species, numerous Balkan endemics, as well as species of commercial importance such as medicinal plants, salmonid fish species, fungi, etc., are present.

Urban development along the course of the Zeta stream/river have a negative impact on the river and local biodiversity. It should be taken into consideration that great pressure on biodiversity such as unresolved issues of wastewater from certain factories/plants and farms, illegal construction, pollution caused by agricultural production that already exist within the boundaries of KBA Zeta. There is intention for translation of part of the waters of the river Zeta into the reservoirs 'Krupac' and 'Slano' by Municipality of Nikšić but it is still uncertain. Negative impact on biodiversity can be expected with the envisioned type of intervention.

Ulcinjska Solana Nature Park

The Nature park Ulcinjska Solana was proclaimed in June 2019. The Ulcinj Salina became the first Important Bird Area (IBA) in Montenegro. Also, Ulcinj Salina is Ramsar site.

Ulcinj salina is situated in the outermost southern part of Montenegro and covers slightly less than 14.5 km2 of salty basins (total surface area is 1.477 ha), 1 km from the city of Ulcinj and from the Albanian border. Ulcinj salina is located on the site of the former lagoon and wetland situated in the delta of the River Bojana. Representing one of the largest salinas in the Mediterranean, the lagoon which was re-shaped to harvest salt is also the most important resting, breeding and wintering area for migratory birds on the east Adriatic coast. In particular the yearly flooding and the subsequent gradual drying of the evaporation ponds create valuable wetland habitats for numerous waders and waterbirds. While from the aspects of flora and vegetation Saline is important, currently 114 plant species have been described as well in the context of amphibians and reptiles (12 species of amphibians and 28 species of reptiles survive in hot summer conditions of the Ulcinj Salina) true value of the area becomes clear as exclusive habitat for birds. Currently 241 bird species have been registered which is 50% of the total bird species registered in Europe. In the wider region, there are habitats where the number of registered birds is even higher, but what makes the Ulcinj Salina special is the quality of species and their number. The number of birds using the Ulcinj Salina basins for breeding, wintering or resting during spring or

autumn migration exceeds the threshold of 1% of the total global bird population. For reference, an area of less than 15 km2 hosts 3% of the total global population of the Dalmatian Pelican (Pelecanus crispus), 3% of the global population of the Black Tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) and the same percentage of the Spotted Redshank (Tringa erythropus). 55 bird species breed in the Ulcinj Salina. Almost half of the registered breeding pairs of aquatic birds in the whole region breed here. 70 of the registered bird species in this area are of special protection interest on the level of the European Union and are included in Annex I of the Birds Directive. Results of the IWC winter bird census, which has been performed since 1999 in the Ulcinj Salina, showed the presence of 20,000 birds every year, regardless of whether the basins are empty or full of water.

The main threats to the area is illegal hunting and management of waterflow since Salina is not active any more as a factory for production of salt.

Delta Bojane and Šasko Lake

One part of KBA of Delta Bojana is protected, but a much larger area does not belong to protected areas. Within the boundaries of the KBA is the Ulcinj Salina, which is protected as a Nature Park. In addition, the Velika plaža is monument of nature, but the boundaries of this protected area are not clearly defined. The Delta Bojana occupies a large area on which several units can be distinguished: Šasko Lake, Ulcinj Salina, Long Ulcinj beach/Velika Ulcinjska Plaza with its hinterland, Ada Bojana and the rest of the KBA. Each of these units is characterized by specific biodiversity, rare and endangered habitats, while the rest of the KBA contains significant areas of quality agricultural land. So far, over 240 bird species have been registered in the Delta Bojana, therefore the entire area has been recognized as the Important Birds Area. Within the KBA there are two EMERALD areas: ME0000004 Long beach/Velika plaža and Ulcinj Salina, and ME000000C Šasko jezero, Rijeka Bojana, Knete, Ada Bojana. Long beach/Velika plaža and Ada Bojana are also recognized as Important Plants Area.

The Montenegrin part of Skadar Lake - north of Buna/Bojana watershed, adjoining the planning area - and its surrounding area were declared as the National Park “Skadarsko Jezero” in 1983 (Lake Skadar - Skadarsko Jezero); in 1995 the territory of the National Park was proclaimed a Ramsar site (20,000 ha). Furthermore there is a number of protected areas designated under the Law on Nature Protection: - The Velika Plaža, Mala plaža, Valdanos, Stari Ulcinj island with neighboring beach, have been under protection since 1968. The revision of protection status, category and regime for these areas (as stipulated in the Law on Nature Protection (2008)) is ongoing. The Ada Bojana and Šasko Lake are designated as an EMERALD site (Resolution 4, Bern Convention). The Šasko Lake is a transboundary IBA.

The Buna/Bojana and Lake Shkoder/Skadar wetlands support about 900 - 1000 plant species and about 25,000 wintering waterbirds. Over 76% of the bird species in the Buna/Bojana delta are migratory and the area is an important component of the Adriatic bird migration flyways. Nearly half of the waterfowl species in Buna/Bojana delta are included in the lists of endangered species at local, regional and international level. The mouth of the river Buna/Bojana represents a rare example of a natural delta on the East Adriatic coast. The connection of the rivers Bojana and Drin has an outstanding importance as migration route for fish, linking Lake Shkoder/Skadar with the Adriatic Sea. The wider region of Buna/Bojana delta with Shkoder/Skadar Lake is also recognized as one of the Balkan centers of Reptile Biodiversity.

The majority of the area is covered by agricultural land, dominated by arable crops (permanent and annual), olive trees, etc. The remaining undeveloped territory is covered by forest, or forest remains and semi-natural areas including: maquis and garrigue, shrubs and pastures, beaches, sand dunes, dray grasslands, etc. The slopes of Rumija mountain are important habitat for Mediterranean vegetation. In the coastal area (a narrow but lengthy area stretching from the south in Velipoja beach over Ada Bojana, Velika Plaža, Đerane, Mavrijan, Valdanos and Kručeto Stari Ulcinj island in northwest), The main vegetation types present are as follows: Sand-dwelling, psamo-halophyte, vegetation distributed along the coastline from Baks-Rrjolli area to Velika Plaža; a representative area with the most developed and preserved psamo-halophyte vegetation is in the hinterland of Velika Plaža; Association of *Tamarix africana* and *Juncus acutus* are mostly present in the coastal area, particularly at the end part of the river, along the Viluni channel, but also at some localities along the Buna/Bojana river and Šasko lake; Mixed forests are present in both countries including a dense vegetation belt of wet/hydric forests mainly composed of different Ash tree species (*Fraxinus excelsior, Fraxinus angustifolius, Fraxinus oxycarpa*, etc), coniferous (*Pinus halepensis*, *Pinus nigra*), white poplar (*Populus alba*), field elm

(*Ulmus minor*), common alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), but also the endemic subspecies of oak *Quercus robur* ssp scutariensis - Skadar Oak. Along both sides of the River there are large complexes of floodplain forests consisting mainly of softwood trees with a series of different transitions down to hardwood floodplain forest. The association of tree spurge (*Euphorbia dendriodes*) is typically present in small rocky areas, at very warm and dry habitats of southern and south-western inclination, from Cape Đerane to end part In the terrestrial part of the area the species are adapted to the local conditions. In general, Rumija massif hosts over 1,500 species/subspecies of plants. Among the registered species there are 62 nationally protected21 as well as 14 rare, 2 vulnerable and 2 endangered. The evergreen coniferous forests with Holm Oak (Quercus ilex) that are often degraded to macquis are characteristic for the area. The presence of Kermes Oak (*Quercus coccifera* L.) at Mavrijan hill close to Ulcinj is a regional specificity. Water and water-related habitats provide shelter for both, commercial and ecologically important species. Marine species23 are less studied than freshwater species. Mollusks, particularly bivalves, dominate the estuary due to the abundance of phytoplankton. Fish The presence of important fish species in the sea and freshwaters contribute in the ecological and economic importance of the area. The group of commercially important freshwater fish in the hydrological complex of Buna/Bojana river, Skadar/Shkodra Lake and Drin river, include the: Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), Prussian Carp (*Carassius auratus gibelio*), Bleak (*Alburnus alburnus alborella*), Rudd (*Scardinus erythrophthalmus scardafa*), Chub (*Squalius platyceps*), Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) etc. Endemic fish species, such as the Roach (*Pachychilon pictum*), are also present in these waters. There are about 50 marine species at the estuary/river mouth, coastal waters and deep sea. The Buna/Bojana river links marine and freshwater ecosystems being a fish migration corridor; there are 13 species moving from the Adriatic Sea to Skadar/ Shkoder Lake. of Kruče in Montenegro.

The shallowness of the lagoons and the mudflats - particularly in the (coastal) wetlands in the areas Velipoja, Viluni lagoon, Ada island, Velika plaža, Ulcinj Salina with neighbouring swamps and Šasko lakeare optimal habitats for Birds. Over 76% of the bird species in the Buna/Bojana delta are migratory; the area is an important part of European bird migration flyways, more specifically, the Adriatic flyway. There are also migratory movements between this area and Shkoder/Skadar Lake. About 29% of birds in the Buna/Bojana delta are nesting species. Numerous passerines land in this area25. This area is visited by the Dalmatian Pelicans (Pelecanus crispus). The average number of birds counted in winter seasons along the river banks in the last years is 8,000. Bird count in Velipoja indicates the presence of more than 5,000 individuals of some 170 bird species (Beqiraj S. and Dhora Dh. 2007). Nearly half of the waterfowl species in Buna/Bojana delta are included in the lists of endangered species at local, regional and international level. For example, Ferruginous Duck (Aythya nyroca) and Pigmy Cormorant (Phalacrocorax pygmeus) are globally threatened species. Amphibians and Reptiles Wetland habitats in the Buna/Bojana delta also host amphibians and reptiles26 . The wider region of Buna/Bojana delta with Shkoder/Skadar Lake is also recognized as one of the Balkan centres of Reptile biodiversity (Đukić, 1995); particularly for reptiles that depend on water. Sea turtles (Caretta caretta) sporadically lay their eggs at Ada Bojana. Mammals A number of terrestrial mammals are present; among the most characteristic are brown hare (Lepus capensis), fox (Vulpes vulpes) and golden jackal (Canis aureus), concentrated in the forests and marshes of the riverine floodplains; European badger (Meles meles), least weasel (Mustela nivalis), European polecat (Mustela putorius), wild boar (Sus scrofa), the insectivorous bicolored shrew (Crocidura leucodon), lesser white-toothed shrew (Crocidura suaveolens), Etruscan shrew (Suncus etruscus), and southern white-breasted hedgehog (Erinaceus concolor) (Bego F. 2003, Dhora et al., 2001, SchneiderJacoby et al., 2006). The otter (Lutra lutra) is a rare aquatic mammal of the Buna River and this globally threatened species has been recorded several times in the Buna over the last few decades.

Buna/Bojana delta is a highly dynamic natural system that is posed to various impacts that threaten its natural balance, particularly sensitive coastal ecosystems. Increasing tourism and human habitation causing several adverse impacts on the natural values such as: (i) Loss, degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats, particularly coastal and wetlands habitats - Most threatened coastal habitats are sand dunes on Velika Plaža in Ulcinj that are one of the latest resorts of unique and rare halophyte vegetation. (ii) Landscape degradation – Construction of new tourism, infrastructure and urban areas physically – visually changing landscape characteristics. These changes are evident in newly constructed zones such as Štoj area in the hinterland of Velika plaža. (iii) Pollution of marine and freshwaters due to increased discharge of polluted and untreated waste waters - According to overall assessment of the status of the water bodies, as most threatened are considered waters of Buna/Bojana river and coastal waters. As a consequence of pollution Eutrophication phenomena has been observed, particularly in Port Milena and Buna/Bojana River. (iv) Disturbance – Presence of tourists / visitors in nature, particularly in the wilderness, disturb and moderate (spatial distribution / aggregation) biodiversity, particularly in the peak of summer season (July – August). Direct use of natural (primarily biological) resources cause significant loss of biodiversity due to: (i) Fishing – This is intensive and destructive impact, that include unsustainable fishery practices such as (i) use of nets with small mesh size, (ii) trawling in depths. Hunting – Similar to fishing, this is also destructive40, poorly controlled and very often illegal activity. Hunting is formally banned in Velipoja (core area) and Ulcinj Salina. However, no permit or illegal hunting practices are present in the coastal zone, usually in wetlands / water habitats and agriculture areas. (iii) Loss of local agricultural varieties and breeds – Due to introduction of new agriculture species and varieties (cattle, crops, vegetables etc), local ones are declining and disappearing, such as Ulcinj sheep “ljaba” 41 . Plans for drying wetland / water areas are possible cause of impacts that can endanger biodiversity in wider area, particularly fish populations. At present, general hydrologic processes are

causing shrink of smaller wetlands zones, such as swamps (“knete”) around Ulcinj Salina. Natural values of the Plan area are also threatened by invasive / alien species. Among marine invasive species, the following are present in plan area: (i) fishes: Tylosurus acus imperialis and Sphoeroides pachygaster (ii) decapods - crustaceans Callinectes sapidus (2006, Port Milena) and (ii) plants: Caulerpa racemosa. From previous time, populations of some introduced nonnative fish like Goldfish (Carassius auratus gibelio), European perch (Perca fluviatilis) and Topmouth Gudgeon (Pseudorasbora parva) had negative impacts on the population of the native fish species, such as cyprinids, and especially the commercially important wild Carp (Cyprinus carpio). Terrestrial invasive plant species are also poorly investigated but following are often present: Black Locust (Robinia pseudoacacia) that is almost resident, Chinese Sumac (Ailanthus altissima) and Paper Mulberry (Broussonetia papyrifera) in urban areas. In general, the low level of public awareness about environmental issues is a specific problem resulting in the lack of appreciation of the ecosystem services and natural values.

MPA Stari Ulcinj

The Nature Park Ulcinje got the name 'Stari Ulcinj' is proclaimed in 2021. . The Stari Ulcinj Nature Park hosts a rich biodiversity, like marine species protected by national legislation, and species considered as endangered according to the European Union and international conventions. There are numerous algae settlements of Cystoseira amentacea in this area, which indicate the good quality of sea water and the coastal zone that is not degraded. Ellisolandia elongata communities have developed in locations that are less sunny, while algae overgrowth is generally absent on larger rocks and gravelly substrates. However, on the rocky bedrock in the upper layer of the infralittoral, close to the shore, there are many degraded surfaces due to the illegal extraction of fingers (Lithophaga lithophaga). Their extraction has caused the destruction of rock base habitats, and due to the slow recovery and other chain processes, the regeneration of such habitats takes a long time. Overfishing in the area is also the cause of a greater development of sea urchins, an herbivorous species that can affect the marine flora and the algea processes, which can at the same time complicate the recovery of degraded rocky areas. The main treats to the area are illegal fishing, waste and urbanization.

Morača River Canyon

Morača River Canyon is already recognized as IBA and KBA site. On the limited area, 11 types of NATURA 2000 habitats have been recorded. Petrified springs with travertine formations are particularly significant because this habitat is rare in Montenegro, covering a small surface but recognized as a priority for protection under the Habitats Directive. There are 71 conservationally significant species present in the area. The most notable species include: *Lutra lutra (Linnaeus, 1758),Bombina variegata (Linnaeus, 1758), Salmo marmoratus Cuvier, 1829, Cordulegaster bidentata Selys, 1843, Gomphus schneiderii Selys, 1850, Onychogomphus forcipatus (Linnaeus, 1758).* The most important pressures on Morača River Canyon is send and gravel extraction which seriously damaged water river flow as well ae illegal fishing. The most important threat is plans to built Hidro power plants but although this plans exist for a years it is not certain that it will be realized.

Cijevna Canyon and Hum Orahovski

Part of the Cijevna canyon, near the Dinoša location, in 2017 was declared as protected natural asset called the Monument of Nature Cijevna canyon. The rest of the KBA, Hum Orahovski and the Cijevna canyon downstream from Dinoša is not protected. The canyon of the Cijevna River is home to numerous endemic, relict representatives of flora and fauna. The Canyon has 813 species of plants registered so far, accounting for a quarter of the total flora of the country. Of this number, about 300 plants are honey-rich plants and more than 60 are endemic species belonging to southeast Dinarides and the Balkan Peninsula. Mediterranean maquis and karst are habitats of several species of reptiles. Canyon cliffs are one of the most important habitats for raptors, and the breeding area for several species of swallows.

Cijevna river is particularly important for salmonid fish species such as: Salmo marmoratus Salmo farioides, Salmo dentex but also for the critically endangered species, the European eel Anguilla anguilla. Due to the presence of native salmonid species, the Cijevna River is an attractive destination for the development of sustainable sport fishing. Cijevna River Canyon was until recently the only habitat of the vultures, white buzzards, Neophron percnopterus, in Montenegro. During summer months, it is a significant breeding place for the Short-toed snake eagle, Circaetus gallicu; Levant sparrowhawk, Accipiter brevipes; falcons and partridges, Alectoris graeca; Eurasian scoops owl, Otus scops; European nightjar, Caprimulgus europaeus; Eurasian hoopoe, Upupa epops; crested lark,

Galerida cristata; Black-eared wheatear, Oenante hispanica; Western rock nuthatch, Sitta neumayer and others. However, even though it is a protected area, salmonid species are affected by poaching, gravel and sand exploitation.

Direct pressures threatening biodiversity and ecosystems can be categorized as follows: Urbanization/Illegal Construction: Increased urbanization in certain parts of the area, particularly unplanned construction, negatively impacts the biodiversity. The construction of tourist and recreational facilities, as well as infrastructure for transportation, contributes to this pressure. Issues include non-compliance with sustainable construction principles, traditional architecture, water supply, wastewater treatment, and waste management.

Fires: Fires pose a significant threat to natural habitats and biodiversity. The consequences of fires have been observed in specific villages where the vegetation has been affected, leading to habitat degradation, regulation of surface and groundwater disturbance, and the occurrence of landslides and erosion.

Exploitation of Gravel and Sand: Although the Cijevna River is not officially designated for gravel and sand exploitation, such activities have still occurred. Exploitation negatively affects fish habitats, water quality, and the natural balance of the area. It also threatens water supply and bathing areas along the river.

Presence of Legal and Illegal Hunting and Fishing: Legal and illegal hunting and fishing, especially in unsuitable areas, with inappropriate methods, and during fish spawning seasons, disrupt habitats and populations. Trout, in particular, is highly sought after, leading to a decline in its stocks due to illegal fishing.

Pollution from Wastewater and Solid Waste: Due to urbanization and the lack of proper sewage systems, municipal wastewater is discharged into the soil or watercourses, impacting water quality. Inadequate solid waste disposal and burning further contribute to environmental pollution.

Cross-Border Influence: The Cijevna River being transboundary, activities in Albania may affect downstream areas in Montenegro. Albania has constructed mini-hydroelectric power plants contrary to international conventions, potentially impacting fish populations and sediment transport. Additionally, sand and gravel exploitation in Albania could affect the Cijevna River in Montenegro.

To address these threats, it is crucial to implement measures such as sustainable construction practices, fire monitoring, timely response, firefighting systems, and community education for fire prevention. Efforts are also needed to regulate and control gravel and sand exploitation, enforce fishing regulations, improve wastewater management, waste disposal practices, and promote cross-border cooperation for environmental protection.

Rumija

Mountain Rumija is located between the two most significant wetlands in Montenegro, IBA Skadar Lake and IBA Bojana River Delta, in the direction east – west. Northern slopes over 500 m altitude are usually uninhibited, with Ostros as a local community. South slopes are also sparsely populated.

Beside rocky, open and steep pastures, there is an area of maquis, forests of chestnuts and beech on the Mountain Rumija within borders of IBA. Rocky pastures are covered with meadows of sage, Salvia officinalis, subjected to intense accumulation in summer months. Animal husbandry has significant impact in degradation of maquis, primarily cultivation of goats. On the designated area of Mount Rumija, 5 types of NATURA 2000 habitats have been mapped, with the dominance of East Sub-Mediterranean dry

grasslands. The area holds special value due to the stenoendemic Montenegrin species of bellflower (Edraianthus wettsteinii), whose entire global population is associated with the mountain massif of Rumija.

In the area, there are 87 conservation significant species. The most important species are: *Edraianthus wettsteinii, Morimus asper Mulsant, 1862, Osmoderma eremita/barnabita (Scopoli, 1763), Rosalia alpine (Linnaeus, 1758), Dinaromys bogdanovi (Martino, 1922).*

Since it is "sandwiched" between two most important habitats of wetland birds in Montenegro, Mountain Rumija is a corridor of their migration, and habitat for many species that determine IBA Montenegro. These are probably the most significant population of western rock nuthatch, *Sitta neumayer*; wheatear, *Oenanthe hispanica*; hoopoe, *Upupa epops*; scops owl, *Otus scops*; several types of hawks, Short-toed Snake Eagle, *Circaetus gallicus*; cammon rock thrush, *Monticola saxatilis*; and population of rock patridge, *Alectoris graeca*.

Direct pressures threatening biodiversity and ecosystems are urbanization and forest fires. The whole area is rich in resources, with the most significant being fish (Skadar Lake, Bojana River, Zeta, Cijevna). Skadar Lake is the largest fishing area in Montenegro, with an annual catch surpassing that of the sea. Major commercial species include carp, bleak, roach, and eel, and fishing is allowed with a permit issued by the National Park, with local fishermen being the permit holders. Also, Bojana River, Zeta and Cijevna are also rich and popular as a fishing destinations.

The land around the lake but also rivers represents an agricultural resource, hosting various forms of agricultural production. It is mainly extensive, featuring mixed crops dominated by annual fruit and vegetable plantations and vineyards. Animal production is small-scale, involving a limited number of cattle, sheep, and goats. Agricultural products are primarily for personal use and local market sales, while recently they have also been marketed through tourism as value-added products. The area have been leveraged through tourism development, which has become the dominant economic activity in the area in recent years. The number of visitors before the pandemic consistently increased. Tourism development has spurred the creation of various tourist products, including on Skadar lake classic lake cruises, but also in whole area cultural, gastronomic and wine tourism, hiking and biking tours, water sports, different forms of accommodation, festivals, and more. As the largest freshwater basin in the Balkans, the lake but also rivers are a crucial water source for irrigation and drinking. The source of Boljesestre in Malo Blato is of particular importance, supplying water to the Montenegrin coast. Among other resources, it is worth mentioning medicinal herbs, primarily sage, providing economic benefits to the local population through its collection.

Project Cluster-based Implementation

Within the 3 target landscapes/seascapes, the project will make direct investments in a total of six target clusters that represent PAs, KBAs, other biological important landscapes/seascapes and intervening degraded productive use areas (agriculture, pastoral, forest and livelihoods) so as to promote an integrated and inclusive approach to development. Information on the clusters are provided below:

Table: Clusters for intervention and coordinates:

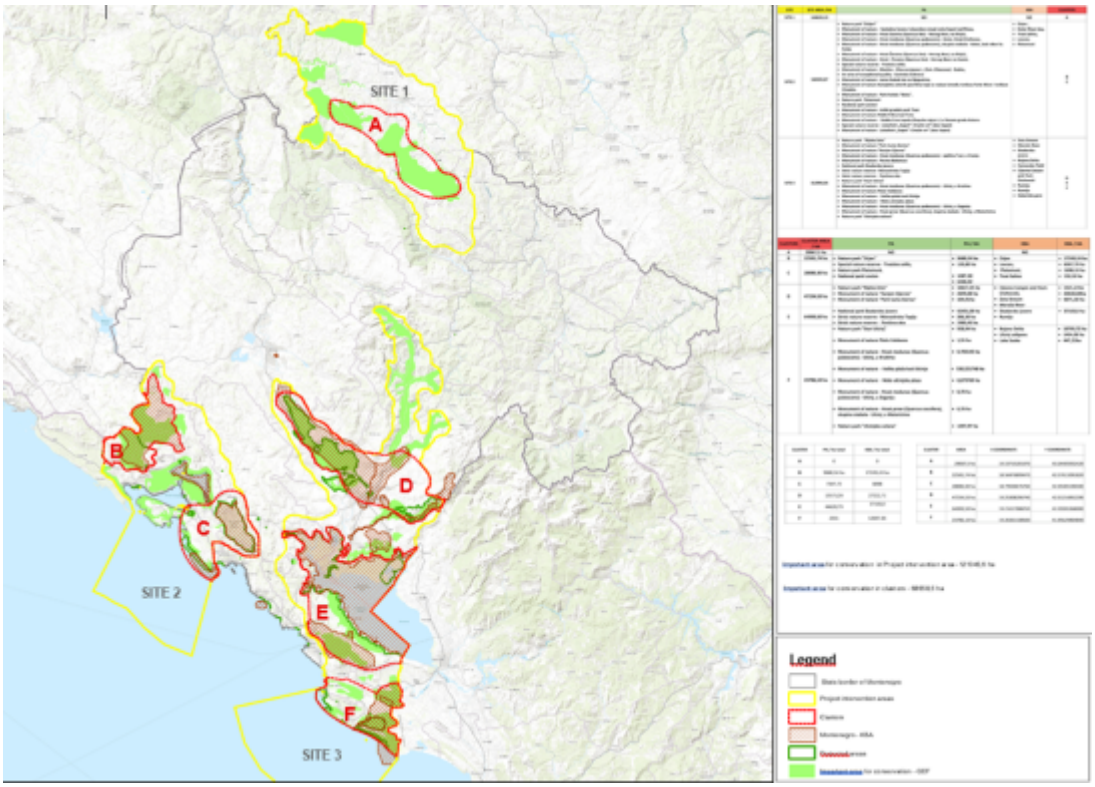
CLUSTERS	CLUSTER AREA (hectares)	PA	PA (hectares)	KBA	KBA (hectares)
A	29067.50	NO		NO	
B	22581.74	• Nature park 'Orjen'	• 9680.54	• Orjen	• 17249.24

C	28080.30	• Special nature reserve - Tivatska solila, • Nature park Platamuni, • National park Lovćen	• 139.80 • 1087.30 • 6260.42	• Lovcen, • Platamuni, • Tivat Salina	• 6267.70 • 1698.10 • 132.10
D	47234.53	• Nature park 'Rijeka Zeta' • Monument of nature 'Kanjon Cijevne' • Monument of nature 'Park šuma Gorica'	• 10617.25 • 2849.08 • 104.91	• Cijevna Canyon and Hum Orahovski, • Zeta Stream • Morača River	• 1521.21 • 20630.00 • 5071.50
E	64999.50	• National park Skadarsko jezero • Strict nature reserve - Manastirska Tapija • Strict nature reserve - Pančeva oka	• 42431.00 • 206.30 • 1983.43	• Skadarsko jezero • Rumija	• 37103.00
F	23786.10	• Nature park 'Stari Ulcinj' • Monument of nature Plaža Valdanos • Monument of nature - Hrast medunac (Quercus pubescens) - Ulcinj, u Krutima • Monument of nature - Velika plaža kod Ulcinja • Monument of nature - Mala ulcinjska plaza • Monument of nature - Hrast medunac (Quercus pubescens) - Ulcinj, u Zoganju • Monument of nature - Hrast prnar (Quercus coccifera), skupina stabala - Ulcinj, u Meterizima • Nature park 'Ulcinjska solana'	• 928.94 • 1.55 • 0.83143 • 530.221748 • 0.879769 • 0.78 • 0.78 • 1397.97	• Bojana Delta • Ulcinj saltpans • Lake Sasko	• 10795.72 • 1454.90 • 447.21

Table: Clusters for intervention and coordinates:

Cluster	Area (hectares)	X Coordinates	Y Coordinates	PA extents (hectares)	KBA extents (hectares)
A	29067.50	19.33715201070	43.24405932420	0	0
B	22581.74	18.56476899470	42.57615091820	9680.54	17249.24
C	28080.30	18.79930676760	42.35485190400	7347.72	8098.00
D	47234.53	19.25308296740	42.51216952290	13571.24	27222.71
E	64999.50	19.21617988250	42.20395368000	44620.73	37103.00
F	23786.10	19.26361108500	41.95629404840	2331.00	12697.83
Total	**215749.67**			**77551.23**	**102370.78**

(SEE MAP BELOW)



MAP: SHOWING INTERVENTION CLUSTERS

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title
02_PIMS 9729_Clean Pre-SESP Montenegro GEF8

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Principal Objective 2

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

☒ Influencing models			
	☒ Transform policy and regulatory environments		
	☒ Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
	☒ Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
	☒ Demonstrate innovative approaches		
	☒ Deploy innovative financial instruments		
☒ Stakeholders			
	☐ Indigenous Peoples		
	☒ Private Sector		
		☐ Capital providers	
		☐ Financial intermediaries and market facilitators	
		☐ Large corporations	
		☒ SMEs	
		☒ Individuals/Entrepreneurs	
		☐ Non-Grant Pilot	
		☐ Project Reflow	
	☒ Beneficiaries		
	☒ Local Communities		
	☒ Civil Society		
		☒ Community Based Organization	
		☒ Non-Governmental Organization	
		☒ Academia	
		☐ Trade Unions and Workers Unions	
	☒ Type of Engagement		
		☒ Information Dissemination	
		☒ Partnership	
		☒ Consultation	
		☒ Participation	
	☒ Communications		
		☒ Awareness Raising	
		☒ Education	
		☒ Public Campaigns	
		☒ Behavior Change	
☒ Capacity, Knowledge and Research			
	☒ Enabling Activities		
	☒ Capacity Development		
	☒ Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	☒ Targeted Research		
	☐ Learning		
		☒ Theory of Change	
		☒ Adaptive Management	
		☒ Indicators to Measure Change	
	☒ Innovation		
	☒ Knowledge and Learning		
		☒ Knowledge Management	
		☒ Innovation	
		☒ Capacity Development	
		☒ Learning	
	☒ Stakeholder Engagement Plan		

☒ Gender Equality			
	☒ Gender Mainstreaming		
		☒ Beneficiaries	
		☒ Women groups	
		☒ Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		☒ Gender-sensitive indicators	
	☒ Gender results areas		
		☒ Access and control over natural resources	
		☒ Participation and leadership	
		☒ Access to benefits and services	
		☒ Capacity development	
		☒ Awareness raising	
		☒ Knowledge generation	
☒ Focal Areas/Theme			
	☐ Integrated Programs		
		☐ Commodity Supply Chains ([1]Good Growth Partnership)	
			☐ Sustainable Commodities Production
			☐ Deforestation-free Sourcing
			☐ Financial Screening Tools
			☐ High Conservation Value Forests
			☐ High Carbon Stocks Forests
			☐ Soybean Supply Chain
			☐ Oil Palm Supply Chain
			☐ Beef Supply Chain
			☐ Smallholder Farmers
			☐ Adaptive Management
		☐ Food Security in Sub-Sahara Africa	
			☐ Resilience (climate and shocks)
			☐ Sustainable Production Systems
			☐ Agroecosystems
			☐ Land and Soil Health
			☐ Diversified Farming
			☐ Integrated Land and Water Management
			☐ Smallholder Farming
			☐ Small and Medium Enterprises
			☐ Crop Genetic Diversity
			☐ Food Value Chains
			☐ Gender Dimensions
			☐ Multi-stakeholder Platforms
		☐ Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration	
			☐ Sustainable Food Systems
			☐ Landscape Restoration
			☐ Sustainable Commodity Production
			☐ Comprehensive Land Use Planning
			☐ Integrated Landscapes
			☐ Food Value Chains
			☐ Deforestation-free Sourcing
			☐ Smallholder Farmers
		☐ Sustainable Cities	
			☐ Integrated urban planning

			☐ Urban sustainability framework
			☐ Transport and Mobility
			☐ Buildings
			☐ Municipal waste management
			☐ Green space
			☐ Urban Biodiversity
			☐ Urban Food Systems
			☐ Energy efficiency
			☐ Municipal Financing
			☐ Global Platform for Sustainable Cities
			☐ Urban Resilience
	☒ Biodiversity		
		☒ Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			☒ Terrestrial Protected Areas
			☒ Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
			☒ Productive Landscapes
			☒ Productive Seascapes
			☒ Community Based Natural Resource Management
		☒ Mainstreaming	
			☐ Extractive Industries (oil, gas, mining)
			☐ Forestry (Including HCVF and REDD+)
			☒ Tourism
			☒ Agriculture & agrobiodiversity
			☒ Fisheries
			☐ Infrastructure
			☐ Certification (National Standards)
			☐ Certification (International Standards)
		☒ Species	
			☐ Illegal Wildlife Trade
			☒ Threatened Species
			☐ Wildlife for Sustainable Development
			☐ Crop Wild Relatives
			☐ Plant Genetic Resources
			☐ Animal Genetic Resources
			☐ Livestock Wild Relatives
			☒ Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
		☒ Biomes	
			☐ Mangroves
			☐ Coral Reefs
			☐ Sea Grasses
			☒ Wetlands
			☒ Rivers
			☒ Lakes
			☐ Tropical Rain Forests
			☐ Tropical Dry Forests
			☐ Temperate Forests
			☒ Grasslands
			☐ Paramo
			☐ Desert
		☒ Financial and Accounting	
			☐ Payment for Ecosystem Services
			☐ Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting
			☐ Conservation Trust Funds

			☒ Conservation Finance
		☐ Supplementary Protocol to the CBD	
			☐ Biosafety
			☐ Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing
	☐ **Forests**		
		☐ Forest and Landscape Restoration	
			☐ REDD/REDD+
		☐ Forest	
			☐ Amazon
			☐ Congo
			☐ Drylands
	☒ **Land Degradation**		
		☒ Sustainable Land Management	
			☒ Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands
			☒ Ecosystem Approach
			☒ Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach
			☒ Community-Based NRM
			☒ Sustainable Livelihoods
			☒ Income Generating Activities
			☒ Sustainable Agriculture
			☒ Sustainable Pasture Management
			☒ Sustainable Forest/Woodland Management
			☒ Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques
			☒ Sustainable Fire Management
			☐ Drought Mitigation/Early Warning
		☒ Land Degradation Neutrality	
			☒ Land Productivity
			☐ Land Cover and Land cover change
			☒ Carbon stocks above or below ground
		☐ Food Security	
	☐ **International Waters**		
		☐ Ship	
		☐ Coastal	
		☐ Freshwater	
			☐ Aquifer
			☐ River Basin
			☐ Lake Basin
		☐ Learning	
		☒ Fisheries	
		☐ Persistent toxic substances	
		☐ SIDS : Small Island Dev States	
		☐ Targeted Research	
		☒ Pollution	
			☐ Persistent toxic substances
			☐ Plastics
			☐ Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater
			☐ Nutrient pollution from Wastewater
		☐ Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan preparation	
		☐ Strategic Action Plan Implementation	
		☐ Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	
		☐ Large Marine Ecosystems	

		☒ Private Sector	
		☐ Aquaculture	
		☒ Marine Protected Area	
		☐ Biomes	
			☐ Mangrove
			☐ Coral Reefs
			☐ Seagrasses
			☐ Polar Ecosystems
			☐ Constructed Wetlands
	☒ **Chemicals and Waste**		
		☐ Mercury	
		☐ Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining	
		☐ Coal Fired Power Plants	
		☐ Coal Fired Industrial Boilers	
		☐ Cement	
		☐ Non-Ferrous Metals Production	
		☐ Ozone	
		☐ Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		☐ Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		☒ Sound Management of chemicals and Waste	
		☐ Waste Management	
			☐ Hazardous Waste Management
			☐ Industrial Waste
			☐ e-Waste
		☐ Emissions	
		☐ Disposal	
		☐ New Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		☐ Polychlorinated Biphenyls	
		☐ Plastics	
		☐ Eco-Efficiency	
		☐ Pesticides	
		☐ DDT - Vector Management	
		☐ DDT - Other	
		☐ Industrial Emissions	
		☐ Open Burning	
		☒ Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices	
		☐ Green Chemistry	
	☒ **Climate Change**		
		☒ **Climate Change Adaptation**	
			☐ Climate Finance
			☐ Least Developed Countries
			☐ Small Island Developing States
			☐ Disaster Risk Management
			☐ Sea-level rise
			☒ Climate Resilience
			☐ Climate information
			☒ Ecosystem-based Adaptation
			☐ Adaptation Tech Transfer
			☐ National Adaptation Programme of Action
			☐ National Adaptation Plan
			☐ Mainstreaming Adaptation
			☐ Private Sector
			☐ Innovation
			☐ Complementarity
			☒ Community-based Adaptation
			☒ livelihoods
		☒ **Climate Change Mitigation**	

			☒ Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use
			☐ Energy Efficiency
			☐ Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport
			☐ Technology Transfer
			☐ Renewable Energy
			☐ Financing
			☐ Enabling Activities
		☐ **Technology Transfer**	
			☐ Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer
			☐ Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)
			☐ Endogenous technology
			☐ Technology Needs Assessment
			☐ Adaptation Tech Transfer
		☒ **United Nations Framework on Climate Change**	
			☒ Nationally Determined Contribution
			☒ Sustainable Development Goals
		☒ Climate Finance (Rio Markers)	
			☒ Climate Change Mitigation 1
			☐ Climate Change Mitigation 2
			☒ Climate Change Adaptation 1
			☐ Climate Change Adaptation 2