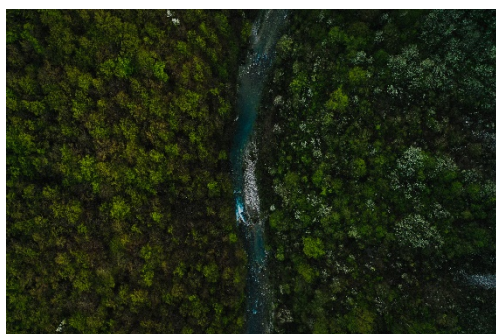


PROJECT INFORMATION

Natura 2000 mapping in habitats of high priority for nature protection in Montenegro



Komarnica river in Montenegro

Source: Dejan Lazarević

Background

Near-natural watercourses are very diverse and characterised by a great variety of species. Especially in Montenegro, some of these pristine streams and rivers are still present in excellent quality. However, due to increasing development, also for the construction of small hydropower plants, these water bodies are threatened. Montenegro currently has a moratorium that stops the construction of power plants. With the aspired Montenegrin accession to the EU in 2025, the Fauna-Flora-Habitat Directive will become effective, according to which these near-natural flowing waters must be preserved or improved. This is already required by the EU Commission in the EU acquis.

Project details

A prerequisite for the protection of sensitive near-natural watercourses is knowledge of their occurrence. Only then can measures be taken to preserve the ecological and socio-economic value of potential Natura 2000 sites. The project therefore focused on the inventory of these water bodies in the sense of the Habitats Directive in four project regions in northern Montenegro that are threatened by the construction of small hydropower plants. In addition, the local population and communities were advised and supported in the protection of their water bodies, as they are dependent on these natural resources. Unsustainable developments are thus to be recognised and averted at an early stage. Through these measures, the waters retain their ecological value and continue to be usable for fishing, as well as being attractive for tourism, for example. After all the people benefit from the establishment of Natura 2000 sites. In order to secure the waters in the long term, they are now, with the new data, ready to be included in the [Emerald-Network](#) as well as Natura 2000 database for the aspired EU accession and proposed as part of the European network of protected areas.

Updated: December 2022

Project country: Montenegro

Duration: 04/2021 – 12/2022

Beneficiaries: Local communities, Kolašin, Mojkovac and Šavnik municipalities Nature and Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Ecology, Spatial planning and Urbanism, NGOs, science community, tourism sector

Implementing organisation: Montenegrin Ecologists Society (MES)

Project number: 154935

Thematic management:

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Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

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