

Management Response: Implementation Plan for Evaluation Recommendations

General Information

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Evaluation Manager	Stephen Baguma
Project Evaluation Title	Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP/GEF Project "Promoting Protected Areas Management through Integrated Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Protection in Coastal Area of Montenegro" (GEF ID 9762) 2017-2024
PIMS #	
GEF ID	9762
UNEP Sub-programme	SP3 – Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
GEF Focal Area	Biodiversity
Project Manager/ Task Manager	Johan Robinson
Office/Division	Ecosystems Division
Branch & Unit	Biodiversity and Land Degradation
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Implementation Plan Sent to PM/TM (Date)	01/09/2025
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Implementation Plan finalized (if different from the date above)	00/00/00

Implementation Plan

No	Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation	Recommendation	Priority level	Type of Recommendation	Responsibility	Proposed Implementation time-frame	Acceptance	Reason if not Accepted or Partially Accepted	Management Action(s) to be taken
1	Currently, there is no well-established ecological monitoring program in place for the three newly designated C/MPAs. While the project successfully established a strong baseline dataset on key ecological parameters, the absence of an ongoing monitoring program presents a major challenge for adaptive management and informed decision-making.	Develop and implement a structured ecological monitoring plan to ensure effective, science-based management of C/MPAs. This plan should provide a consistent and systematic approach to collecting, analysing, and utilizing ecological data on the status of key species, habitat conditions, and long-term biodiversity trends within the C/MPAs to inform decision making and management planning of C/MPAs.	Important	Partners	Morsko Dobro	May 2025 – June 2026	Accepted	Recommendation is accepted	UNEP BDL Unit will inform the EA of the recommendation by means of email.

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2	Lack of internal research capacities in Morsko Dobro to implement ecological monitoring	Develop long-term partnerships with academic institutions, research centres, and universities to ensure sustained research and ecological monitoring in C/MPAs. Leveraging the scientific expertise, technical resources, and research infrastructure of the academic sector will enhance the monitoring, data collection, and analysis capacities needed for effective C/MPA management and adaptive decision-making	Important	Partners	Morsko Dobro	When possible – ideally over the next two years	Accepted	Recommendation is accepted	UNEP BDL Unit will inform the EA of the recommendation by means of email.
3	The current structure primarily relies on annual reporting, which may not be sufficient for continuous supervision, adaptive management, or timely interventions when challenges arise in C/MPA implementation and enforcement. Strengthening this oversight would ensure that C/MPAs are managed in alignment with national conservation priorities, international obligations, and best practices in marine protected area management.	Enhance the oversight role of the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning, and Urbanism to ensure the effective governance and long-term sustainability of the newly established C/MPAs. While the Ministry is responsible for approving C/MPA management plans and receiving annual reports from Morsko Dobro, the existing arrangements do not provide sufficient mechanisms for continuous supervision, enforcement, and strategic guidance. A more structured oversight mechanism, such as regular performance reviews, enhanced coordination between the ministry and Morsko Dobro, and stronger legal provisions for ministry intervention, could improve governance effectiveness. Strengthening the Ministry's oversight and coordination role will improve accountability, conservation effectiveness, and policy integration within the C/MPA management framework.	Important	Partners	Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning, and Urbanism of Montenegro	12 months	Accepted	Recommendation is accepted	UNEP BDL Unit will inform the EA of the recommendation by means of email.

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4	Currently, the knowledge products are scattered with limited accessibility	Develop a centralized, well-maintained digital platform for storing, updating, and sharing information related to C/MPAs to ensure long-term accessibility, transparency, and effective use of the wealth of knowledge generated by the project. A dedicated online database or digital repository would serve as a comprehensive resource hub for scientific data, ecological monitoring results, socio-economic studies, management plans, policy documents, and stakeholder engagement records.	Important	Partners	Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning, and Urbanism of Montenegro	2026	Accepted	Recommendation is accepted	UNEP BDL Unit will inform the EA of the recommendation by means of email.