

Monitoring public attitudes toward sustainable development and biodiversity of the Dinara mountain

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Abstract

The survey of public attitudes and knowledge was conducted as part of the Dinara back to LIFE project during June and July 2020. The aim of the research was to collect public opinions and knowledge on the topics of the biodiversity of Dinara, perception of livestock keeping and beekeeping, sustainable development and acceptance of the project. The research was conducted using the survey method in the cities of **Sinj, Knin, Vrlika and Trilj, and the municipalities of Hrvace, Otok, Kijevo and Civljane**, where a total of 404 people were surveyed. The respondents perceive the cultural and recreational potential of Dinara, and recognize it as a potential for livestock keeping, beekeeping and tourism. According to respondents, **biological diversity of Dinara is most affected by fires and human activity**. When it comes to nature protection, majority of respondents don't trust local self-government units and relevant ministries. Perception of livestock keeping is partially attractive, neither outdated nor modern, but mostly profitable. The most common reasons for not engaging in livestock keeping or beekeeping are lack of interest, doing other work and lack of conditions. When choosing methods for grassland restoration, **87% of respondents mostly or fully support grazing, 63% supports manual vegetation removal, and only 39% the method of controlled burning**. The obtained results indicate the need for informing and educating the community, and they serve to adjust the project activities and better guide the rural development of the project area. **The survey will be repeated in the last project year (2023).**

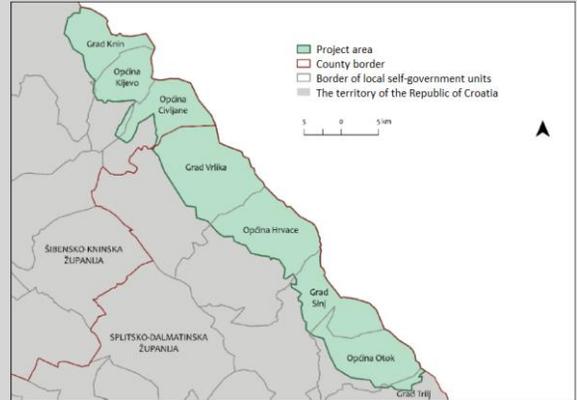
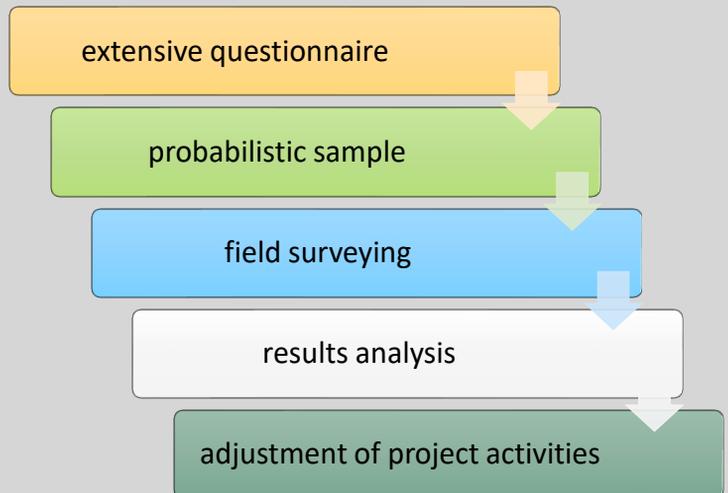


Figure 1. Location of the project area with the associated LGUs

Survey questionnaire topics

- sustainable development of Dinara
- biodiversity of the area
- informing about nature protection
- trust in institutions and NGOs
- perception of agricultural activities
- grassland restoration methods
- consumer habits and product offering
- visibility and support of the project



References

UNITED NATIONS. (2008). Designing household survey samples: practical guidelines. Studies in methods. Series F ; no. 98; New York, United Nations.

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