

Progress report

1 Information about the project

1.1 Title of the project	Fostering the Protection of the Sava River/Returning Water Dynamics to Tišina Oxbow (Čigoč, Croatia)
1.2 Reference no. according to contract	HR-16-153-29
1.3 Reporting period	01 April 2016 – 30 September 2016

2 Progress Report



2.1 Please describe the activities implemented in the reporting period in relation to the expected results and objectives.

1. Request of Permission for the revitalization works according to Nature Conservation Act

On 18 July 2016 LPNPPI send to Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection request for the Previous impact assessment of the action for the ecological network (annex_1). Decision on the Previous impact assessment (annex_2) and Nature Protection Condition (annex_3) received on 13/09/2016.

2. Organization of the meeting with Čigoč Local Board

Meeting with Čigoč Local Board held on 05 March 2016 (annex_4_report_meeting_locals) and locals have been informed on the future project restoration of the Tišina Oxbow (annex_5_photos). Because of the private land in the oxbow it was necessary to collect permissions of the owners. The meeting organized earlier of the project start because to be sure that inhabitants agree with the project implementation, 59 signed forms were collected (annex_6 and annex_7).

3. Prepare and conduct a call for construction works and contracting

On 17th May 2016 Institution started with the process of beginning of the procurement procedure - director's starting decision of beginning (annex_8), call for tender was sent to three addresses (annex_9), opening tender minutes (annex_10) and selection decision (annex_11). The lowest price was of the "Vodoprivreda" Sisak with an amount of 140.428,20 HRK + VAT 25% and on 30 June 2016 contract has been signed (annex_12). Valerija Hima has appointed for supervision of the construction works (annex_13).

4. Construction works

Construction works started on 26th August 2016 (annex_14) and finished on 15th September 2016. Invoice received (annex_15) and paid in 30th September 2016 (annex_16). Constructor had the over budget works because the old water-management facility was in very bad condition and during the reconstructed whole system has fallen down. A new retaining concrete wall needed to be constructed (annex_17_photos).

5. Meeting on the regulation of the competences between LPNPPI and Croatian waters

In September LPNPPI and Croatian Water has a meeting to agree a form of the agreement and to finalize a responsibilities of each side to manipulate by the facility. Agreement signed on 30th September 2016 (annex_19).

2.2 Please describe the progress achieved in the reporting period in relation to the expected results and objectives of the project.

With a new facility it is ensured a more dynamic regime of surface water level in the downstream part of Tišina oxbow inducing small and medium inundation up to a water level 95 m above sea-level to improve feeding conditions for the colony of White Stork at Čigoč village and make use of modified flood control facilities to the purpose of nature conservation.

2.3 What were main successes in the reporting period?

1. Cooperation between water management and nature protection resulted with an agreement where is specified that CW will manipulate by the facility on the request of the LPNPPI for the nature conservation purpose (in period when the flood control measure are not in force only)
2. In the frame of the project with ZOO and EURONATUR two adult storks marked in June by the gps and it is confirmed that storks from Čigoč use the oxbow as a feeding area. (annex_18_photo)

2.4 What were main setbacks and challenges in the reporting period?

It was not possible to ensure a delivery of the penstocks from the Croatian producer on time, so constructor decided to order the penstocks from the German producer – certificate in annex_20.

2.5 Please reflect on the project implementation so far and assess to what extent the objectives have been achieved. Please also describe which changes were necessary and why.

During the project time it is agreed with CW to ensure a budget for the removal mud and overgrowth shrubs from the oxbow channel in 2017. LPNPPI will also ask for the recovery of the water gauge to control the water level in the oxbow. Considering an altitude of appr. 98 m above sea-level of the county road on the old embankment next to the oxbow, IGH recommends a maximum water level in the oxbow at an altitude of 95 m asl..

2.6 Lessons learned and their relevance for your work.

Insufficient budget caused a very good cooperation with CW in order to ensure fund for the canal restoration and cleaning and installation of water gauge.

2.7 Remarks on financial management

Please describe major changes and why they were necessary.

By this project restoration a construction works have been financed only. Organization of the meetings, supervision, travel costs and working hours of staff for those activities ensured by the LPNPPI's budget.

2.8 Outlook on the next reporting period

Please outline the main activities and challenges for the next reporting period.

3 Final Report

3.1 ADDITIONAL FOR FINAL REPORT: General summary of the project implementation

(max. 2.500 characters)

Tišina oxbow, as many other oxbows in the region along the Sava course was cut off from the main river to protect the village and agricultural land against the flood. The area has been included in the "Srednje Posavlje" flood control system that has been developed in 70 – 80 years last century and represents in one hand a human threats to biodiversity. But in the other hand a flood control facility can be transform into means of nature conservation management by repairing and modifying the oxbow's outlet sluice as well. In the same time the Čigoč Village as the First European Stork Village, with 32 active nests of the White Stork is important bird area. The oxbow is only 20-50 meters from the village and represents an important feeding site for the colony, especially young storks when they learn to fly (conservation target). Induced small and medium inundation in the channelized downstream part of Tišina oxbow would improve feeding conditions during the breeding period.

Because of the mostly private land in the oxbow LPNPPI organized in spring 2016 a first meeting with the Čigoč locals and present the project in order to collect their permissions (impact of the project is to raise a water level on the private land during the summer). Afterwards the Institution organized a meeting with CW who are actually responsible for the water management in Lonjsko Polje. Croatian Waters ask for two conditions to implement the project: to collect the permissions of locals and to send the request for an offer to the constructor which have the license to work on the water management facilities only. After the public tender and selection of "Vodoprivreda" Sisak, contract signed. Contract included the works to reconstruct an existing sluice in the dam between the Sava River and the Čigoč oxbow in the aim to prevent a quick water leakage from the canal to the Sava. According to the Nature Conservation Law LPNPPI asked the Ministry for the Permission and nature conservation conditions. The main construction works implemented from mid-August to mid-September of 2016. At the end of the September LPNPPI and CW made an agreement to define the responsibilities to manage by facility. Because of the reduced budget it was not possible to install a water gauge for measurement of the water level in oxbow and it is something that should be done next year. Considering an altitude of appr. 98 m above the sea-level of the county road on the old embankment close to the oxbow, IGH recommends a maximum water level in the oxbow at an altitude of 95 m a.s.l..

3.2 Outputs of the project

Please list the main products of the project, e.g. workshops held, documents, policy papers, public relation material and describe how they were used.

1. Request of Permission for the revitalization works according to Nature Conservation Act

2 documents from the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection - Decision on the Previous impact assessment (annex_2) and Nature Protection Condition (annex_3)

2. Organization of the meeting with Čigoč Local Board

1 Meeting with Čigoč Local Board (annex_4_report_meeting_locals and annex_5_photos)

3. Prepare and conduct a call for construction works and contracting

Public tender implemented and the offer with the lowest price contracted (annex_12)

4. Construction works

2 Plate penstocks installed

1 rough hatch installed

20 m of canal from both side of dam cleaned

1 new retaining concrete wall

5. Meeting on the regulation of the competences between LPNPPI and Croatian waters

1 meeting in Sisak

Agreement signed

3.3 Outcomes of the project

Please describe the immediate observed effects of the project in relation to direct threats and factors leading to direct threats.

It is possible to monitor the effects of the project from next year. The result should have an impact in the early summer (June, July) when the sluice will be closed and a higher surface water level could be ensured in the oxbow and present a favorable habitat for the amphibians, reptiles and fishes and feeding habitat for the young storks as well.

3.4 Impact of the project

Please explain how the project has changed the problems addressed in this project in relation to the conservation targets. Please also explain the state before and after project implementation in relation to the goals you formulated.

Changing the problems in relation to the conservation target will be elaborated next year when the Institution will start with a monitoring of the surface water level in the canal/oxbow in the village and with the accounting of white storks on the feeding in oxbow.

3.5 Outlook

Please outline how you will make use of the outputs and outcomes of the project in the future and how you will continue to address the issues of the project.

As 3.4.

4 Guidance

Please make sure to use of the following definitions in your application (based on the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation¹):

Activity	A specific action or set of tasks undertaken by project staff and/or partners to reach one or more objectives. Sometimes called an action, intervention, response, or strategic action.
Conservation Target	An element of biodiversity at a project site, which can be a species, habitat, or ecological system that a project has chosen to focus on. All targets at a site should collectively represent the biodiversity of concern at the site.
Direct Threats	Primarily human actions that immediately degrade one or more conservation targets.
Factors	A generic term for an element of a conceptual model including direct and indirect threats, opportunities, and associated stakeholders. It is often advantageous to use this generic term since many factors – for example tourism – could be both a threat and an opportunity. Also known as root causes or drivers.
Goal	A formal statement detailing a desired impact of a project, such as the desired future status of a target in the long-term. A good goal meets the criteria of being linked to targets, impact oriented, measurable, time limited, and specific.
Impact	The desired future state of a conservation target.
Objective	Objectives are formal statements of the outcomes or intermediate results and desired changes that you believe are necessary to attain your goals. Objectives specify the desired changes in direct and indirect threats and opportunities that you would like to achieve in the short and medium term. A good objective meets the criteria of being results oriented, measurable, time limited, specific, and practical. Indicators
Outcome	The desired future state of a threat or opportunity factor.
Result	The desired future state of a target or factor. Results include impacts which are linked to targets and outcomes which are linked to threats and opportunities.

¹ <http://cmp-openstandards.org/>