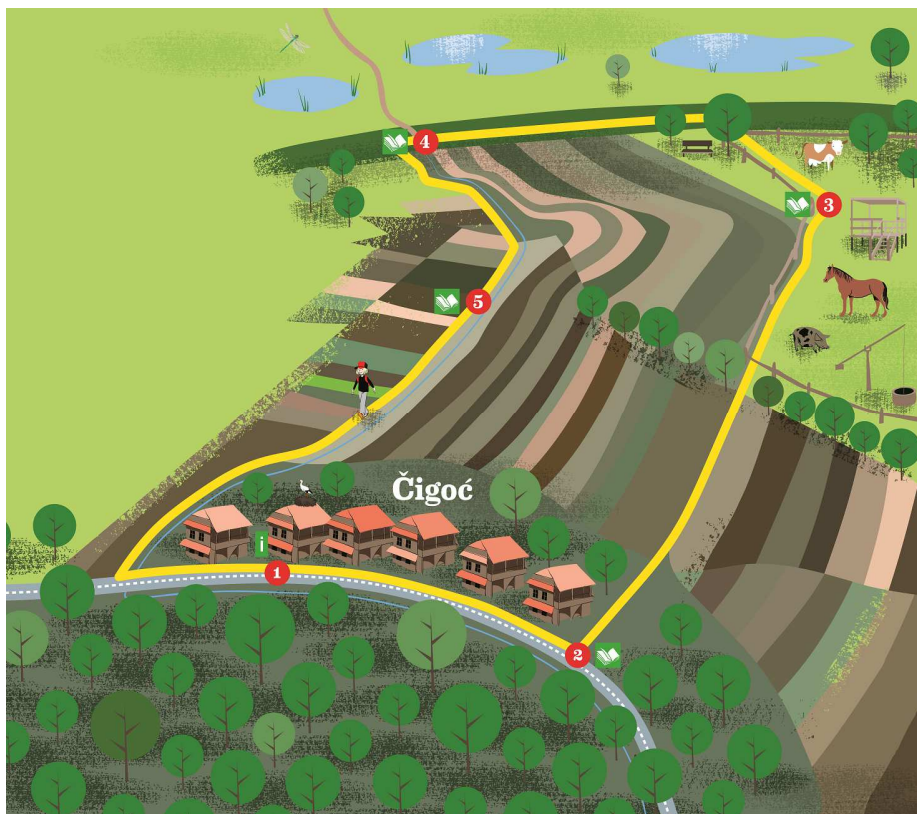


„Storks among us“

European Stork Village Čigoc, Croatia

- report -





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1. Project information

Name of the Stork Village

Cigoc – the First European Stork Village (1994)
Republic of Croatia

Name of the project

„Storks among us“

Project leader

Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Service
Krapje No. 16
HR – 44325 Krapje
Croatia
Phone: +385 (0)44 611 190
Fax: +385 (0)44 606 449
e-mail: bio@pp-lonjsko-polje.hr

Responsible person

Goran Gugic
Tel: +385 (0)44 606 450
Fax: +385 (0)44 606 449
e-mail: manager@pp-lonjsko-polje.hr

Contact person

Valerija Hima
Tel: +385 (0)44 611 190
Fax: +385 (0)44 606 449
e-mail: bio@pp-lonjsko-polje.hr

Project partners

Cigoc Local Board, Cigoc, Croatia
Municipality of Sisak, Sisak-Moslavina County
Rimska No. 26
HR – 44000 Sisak
Croatia

Project supported by

the Swiss Stork Society (Storch Schweiz)
Foundation Euronatur
Foundation Ciconia
the Swiss Ornithological Institute (Vogelwarte Sempach)

2. Report on project activities

2.1. Technical report

The project „Storks among us“ was implemented partly in 2010 and in the spring of 2011, after a grant was awarded at the Competition for project proposals during the 7th Meeting of the European Stork Villages Network held in Altreu, Switzerland.

The main objective of the project „Storks among us“ was to halt the trend in the decline of the population of the white storks in Cigoc. The following tasks have been planned:

- Restoration of the village pasture land to make it a suitable feeding ground for white storks.
- To enhance tourism in the village by putting the field path and the village pasture to use for the purpose of sightseeing by tourists.

1. Through revival and restoration of the village pasture, 4 activities have been planned to ensure better conditions for cattle and a larger area for cattle grazing and stork feeding:

1.1. Mulching the overgrown part of the pastureland

Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Service obtained permission from the Ministry of culture for cutting and mulching overgrown areas of the pasture from Cigoc to Kratecko Village and made an agreement to conduct the activity. But in 2010 there was so much rainfall, flooding, and groundwater levels were so high that it was not possible to enter into the pastureland with machinery. However the activity is still in planning to be undertaken in 2011.

1.2. Using machinery to enable an access route to the pastureland

By project proposal it was planned to level and facilitate the construction of a 12 m wide clay path from the village to the pasture. One side was to be used by passing livestock and the other for visitors. From the financial support of the Sisak Municipality, a 1.5m wide gravel path has been built on part of the walking trail. This required a total of 170m³ of gravel (picture 1.).

1.3. Movement of the fence and the creation of an entry gate into the pasture

In regards to the area of the pasture which was not restored, it wasn't necessary to move the wire. Instead, two iron entry gates were built at the entrance of the pasture rather than one. (picture 2 and 3).

1.4. Creation of a well in the traditional spirit

The well has been built and a pump bought (picture 4).

2. Enriching the tourism available is part of the goal in raising the number of visitors who will in turn try the specialties on offer in the village. The tourist product of the village will be greater, which will ensure more numerous visitors, and they, making use of the gastronomic and tourist services of the place will lead to an increase in traditional livestock production, the traditional gastronomic fare and will protect the rural area as the precondition for the white stork protection. In the purpose of this activity new walking trail has been conduct, long 4,85 km and named “The Posavac Trail” with 5 educational boards.

2.1. Observation platform

One observation platform has been set up, with the dimensions 3.0 x 3.0 m which will be used in the observation of cattle and storks on the pastureland (picture 6).

2.2. Five educational signboards

According to the project proposal, 4 educational boards have been planned to be set up, but thematically 5 educational boards were needed.—They outline a historical overview and description of land use around the village in the beginning of the 20th century. The themes of the signboards are:

- „The Posavac Trail“— characteristics of the trail (picture 7)
- „Traditional products“(picture 8)
- „The village pasture „Pod vulicom“(picture 9)
- „Coexistence of man and nature“(picture 10)
- „A Breath of the forgotten past“(picture 11)

2.3. Signage

11 wooden posts and 20 green signs have been set up along the path (picture 12).

2.3. Financial report

At the moment of the project application the sum total of the project proposal has been planned to amount to 6.500 €. This should be implemented by the donation of the project competition and from the budget of Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Service. The jury evaluated that all project proposals were very successful and each country deserves a supporting prize. Hence, the donation for the Croatian project proposal was a sum of 3.000 CHF which was not enough for the implementation of all planned activities. The Municipality of Sisak was offered project participation and financial support for construction according to the decision of the jury that decided to give a supporting prize to each country.

Activity	Planned (€)		Conducted (€)			
	Lonjsko Polje NPPS	Project Fund	Description	LPNPPS	Project Fund	the Sisak Municipality
1.1. Mulching the overgrown part of the pastureland	500,00			-	-	-
1.2. Using machinery to put the access route to the pastureland		500,00	170 m ³ of gravel			2.046,38,00
1.3 Entry gates		500,00	2 iron entry gates		500,00	
1.4. Making a well in the traditional spirit		2.000,00	Well Pump		1.718,09 33,69	
2.1. Observation platform		1.000,00	Oak wood Oak wood Tool set Working hours (242 x 4,77€) Transport	68,21 254,56 1.155,52 216,40	542,97	
1.1.2.2. Educational signboards	500,00	1.000,00	4 educ. boards 1 educ. board ilustrations	436,56 1.554,32		1.746,25
2.3. Tourist signage	500,00		Green signs	256,48		
Total:	1.500,00	5.000,00		3.942,06	2.794,76	3.792,63
Total:	6.500,00 €		10.529,45 €			

2. Conclusion

Generally speaking, this project represents a small step in an effort to achieve the greater aim of halting the decrease in the number of nesting storks during nesting season in Cigoc village. It is still significant though because of the mutual cooperation achieved among locals and the Park's administration in defining problems and finding appropriate solutions. Through monitoring, this and all other future projects should show their effectiveness.

3. Photos

Slika 1. Path



Slika 2. i 3. Entry gates



Slika 4. Well



Slika 5. Shema of the walking trail



Slika 6. Observation tower



Slika 7. Educational boards



Slika 8.



Slika 9.



Slika 10.



Slika 11.



Slika 12. Signage

