



INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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Neretva and Trebišnjica Management Project

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Project Status: Active



1. Nutrient releases reduction
2. Control of saline intrusion in the delta
3. Increased environmental flows

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Neretva and Trebišnjica Management Project

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Neretva and Trebišnjica Management Project (NTMP) is a regional cooperation project - Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The development and general environmental objective of the project is to provide mechanisms for the efficient and equitable water allocation among the users of the Neretva and Trebišnjica River Basin at the trans-boundary level, and for enhancing the basin ecosystems and biodiversity through improved water resource management.

RESULTS: PROCESS

The 1996 treaty between the two countries Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina established a joint Interstate Water Commission (ISWC) in order to regulate water management relations.

For implementation of joint activities under the NTMP, in 2009, the parties established Coordination Committee (CC). It is responsible for coordination and monitoring of joint activities, including water management plan development and provision of guidance for addressing the common issues. The CC regularly reports on joint activities and implementation progress to ISWC. CC receives the support from the Technical Advisory Group (TA). TA comprises experts from both Parties from water, environment, agriculture and energy sectors and representative of hydro-power plants, municipalities and non-governmental organizations.

INDICATOR#1

(Increased interstate cooperation and capacity for trans-boundary water resource management, / and application of IWRM principles).

Development of River Basin Management Plan is a central activity of the project and a crucial pilot for all governments involved. It will deliver essential guidance that can be replicated) in other basins and contributes to B&H and Croatia's accession to EU.

The technical working group has been formed to follow up the preparation of the Plan in details, and consists of four members from B&H and Croatia.

RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

Reduction of water pollution from municipal and industrial sources (organic, nutrients and priority substances) in selected municipalities in the basin / improved maintenance of environmental flows and improve ecosystem health and biodiversity in the basin / and reduction of saltwater intrusion as a result of implementation of a Pilot Irrigation Scheme in Neretva Delta.

INDICATOR#1

(Improvements of wastewater treatment plants)

Reduced municipal wastewater discharge (testing operation of the WWTP for the municipality Bileća in Republic Srpska in B&H / preparatory activities for construction of WWTP for the municipality Konjic in Federation of B&H is on-going / preparatory activities for reconstruction of existing WWTP in municipality Ljubuški in Federation of B&H is on-going) and reduction of the industrial wastewater discharge into international waterways / preparatory activities for reconstruction of existing wastewater treatment plan in industrial zone of Konjic municipality)

INDICATOR#2

(Environmental water flows maintained)

Determination, regulation and setting up of environmentally acceptable flow regime at the seven selected location at Neretva and Trebišnjica River

INDICATOR#3

(Irrigation Pilot Project on the location Glog (284 ha) completed. Established M&E to monitor sustainability and replicability)

Establishment of sustainable land and water management with the aim of increased yields and revenues. Indicator is the performance level (up to now 30%).

RESULTS: WATER RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

Improved water resource management and biodiversity conservation have been identified by both countries as key environmental issues in their National Environmental Action Plans (NEAPs).¹ The two National Action Plans (NAPs) for SAP MED implementation that were prepared by BiH and Croatia in 2005 are concentrated on the coastal areas and define the priority pollution reduction investments, focusing on nutrients and urban wastewater throughout the NTRB.

B&H and Croatia have jointly identified protection of the Neretva Delta and improved transboundary and river-basin-level management as priority actions through the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program (RERP) of the Southeast Europe (SEE) Stability Pact. The project will pilot a scheme to mitigate saltwater intrusion into the Neretva Delta and reduce pollutants from agriculture into the Neretva River.

INDICATOR#1

(Improved water quality status)

Achievement, maintenance or improvement of existing to at least good status in compliance with the requirements stated in Regulation on water quality standard (Official Gazette 89/10) or/and River Basins Management Plan (draft) for rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters in the Neretva & Trebišnjica Basin.

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¹ NEAPs were approved in BiH in 2003 and in Croatia in 2001.